CHINA WEEKLY

REVIEW

密勒氏評論報

A Weekly Newspaper Established in 1917

The Dean of Canterbury on:

RUSSIA'S PEACEFUL CONSTRUCTION

A CHENGTU DAIRY

EARL WILLMOTT

WRATH OF CHIEN TANG RIVER

CHEN HSUEH-CHAO

THE BRITISH ELECTIONS

AN EDITORIAL REVIEW

MARCH 4, 1950

JMP 5,000

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LETTERS From The People

Comments from readers on current topics are cordially invited: their opinions, however, do not necessarily represent the views of The China Weekly Review.

HUNAN'S BEGGARS

To The Editor:

Beggars and refugees usually are the result of war, famine and laziness. Not only they themselves suffer but they do a great deal of harm to society.

There were a large number of beggars and refugees in Changsha who disturbed the peace and our order. In October, 1949 a temporary relief committee was formed to subscribe funds and materials for them, with the eventual aim of finding them permanent work and homes. Much has been done since the establishment of the committee. In order to understand the real situation of these sufferers, a general registration was undertaken and last December 6,962 refugees were registered for repatriation. There were 2,733 refugees who came from provinces other than Hunan and they were repatriated to their native places. A Communist official escorted them and gave each person a letter issued by the Hunan People's Government to the respective hsien governments asking them to make it possible for the refugees to become productive workers. The second group of refugees is expected to leave by the middle of February.

There were 1,620 beggars who applied for accommodations. The committee divided them into four groups according to age, health, sex and ability to work. They were all provided with food, shelter and clothes and were then taught to learn and work. In a short time good results were achieved. They formed themselves into four teams: cooks, servants, police, sanitation workers. They are becoming useful persons to society and are learning the dignity of labor. Now many of them are quite fond of learning and study. A former refugee, Liao Chang-sung, wrote a letter to the **New Hunan Pao** asking for some books. Much sympathy was shown him and a few days later he received many books.

CHANG SHU-CHI

Changsha, Hunan
January 24, 1950

APPEAL TO WRITERS

To The Editor:

I would appreciate your publishing the following message I have just mailed to the International P.E.N. Club, London:

Our World Association of Poets, Playwrights, Essayists, Novelists was founded about 30 years ago by H. G. Wells, Romain Rolland, Rabindranath Tagore and others to stand against inhumanity, against cruelty and wanton bloodshed, with all the strength and vibrancy of our literary art.

Therefore, being an eyewitness of the worst atrocities committed since the second world war, I hurry to report and urgently ask you to protest against the daily torments inflicted on a kind and peaceloving people, a high-spirited people, most valuable for the past culture and probably even more valuable for the future culture.

The Chinese people are just beginning to reconstruct their country, accomplishing a progress of universal significance. For never in the world's history was the work of a first post-revolutionary period done in such a peaceful, such a scrupulous, ay, such a courteous way.

But, doing this admirable toil the Chinese people are attacked and tormented every day by air raids and bombings, maliciously injuring their painstaking work, mutilating and killing women and children.

Nantao, Shanghai's southeastern district, a district of industrious Chinese handicraft workers, is attacked again and again. The poor houses of Chinese workmen are mercilessly destroyed, houses of the workmen who produced silver carving and ivory carving of such an amazing beauty, such a touching daintiness.

Who attacks them? The Nationalist government? But there is no people, no country standing behind them! In reality there is no Nationalist government existing any more but a private company limited—very limited—only unlimited in their bloodthirsty resentment against a people who bluntly refused them for maladministration and corruption. No nation, no country is standing behind them, only foreign big business men, always ready to violate international law and to shed human blood cruelly and wantonly.

Dear colleagues, dear brothers! I implore you to raise your voice in protest against the daily torments inflicted on a kind and peaceloving people.

CLARA BLUM,
Member of the Austrian P.E.N. Club

Shanghai
February 27, 1950.

FOREIGN BARRACKS

To The Editor:

I was very much interested in the material which you published on the Peking-foreign consulates land dispute (Review, February 11). In this connection you might be interested in another article from the Sin Min Pao telling about the abuses which used to exist in the old Legation Quarter. I have translated it as follows:

"The Legation Quarter after its forceful occupation by the imperialists was converted completely into a 'specialized' zone. A number of the Diplomatic Corps took turns acting as administrator of the Quarter for a year. Chinese military personnel were not allowed within the Quarter. Rickshaws passing through the Quarter had to remove their bells before entering, failing which the pullers would be arrested. The police force was independent and known as 'Patrol Squads of the Chinese Police Force of the Legation Quarter Administration.' Administrative affairs were in the hands of Chinese Counsellors of the various legations.

"On one occasion the Chinese Counsellor of the German Legation, Ti-Li, on passing the Tai Chi Chuang, discovered some Chinese policemen seeking warmth from a fire within the barracks, gave vent to his fury on the spot and scolded and insulted the policemen. The latter, long suffering under oppression, were roused into fury, and there and then beat up Ti-Li with their batons. The whole force in the Legation Quarter supported their colleagues and a strike was staged. But the imperialists just dismissed the whole lot and enlisted the services of new men (for many vagrants were then attracted by the better wages offered). . . .

"The regulations observed by the Police Force in the Legation Quarter provided that a foreigner committing an offense could only be handed over to his own legation, and could not be otherwise dealt with by the police. And more often than not, a policeman turning in a foreign offender to his legation was himself insulted and beaten there. As a result, the police generally refrained from interfering with a foreigner when he committed a breach of the law. When a Chinese committed an offense, if it was punishable by detention of less than six hours, he would be so detained in the Police Station of the Quarter. If the offense called for a heavier punishment, he would be handed over to the Chinese Police in the First District of the City.

"When a foreigner injured or killed a Chinese with his motor car within the Legation Quarter,

(Continued on page 18)

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THE BRITISH ELECTION

FEW people expected that Labor would be defeated in the British general elections, or that the Liberal Party would make any gains, but the fact of the large Conservative advance has come as a surprise to many.

On the safe ground of after-thought we may guess, from this distance, at the reasons for the Conservative gain and the narrowing of the Labor Party absolute majority in the House of Commons from 141 seats to 7, with one result yet to come in.

A Labor victory seemed assured for the very reason that the party held such a substantial lead, bye-elections included, in the last parliament. No crisis had appeared to seriously affect the standard of living and the conditions of the British people during the period since the previous general election in 1945, and there was apparently no seething discontent and desire for change.

But the fallacy in this line of reasoning is that it treats the British voter as a passive agent who reacts only to a violent fall in his standard of living. The truth is that the *status quo* is never good enough, and for the British industrial worker and white-collar worker the *status quo* for a long time has meant a very threadbare existence. This truth will appear more clearly evident if we consider that in 1945, after years of bombings, privations, shortages and war-weariness, the British people voted overwhelmingly for the Labor Party in the high hope that a Labor government would bring about a radical improvement in their conditions.

But, as in Australia and New Zealand, so in Britain, the Labor government did not initiate a continual and clear improvement in living standards. The problems of food rationing and housing were never solved. In fact, in the last year of its term of office the Labor government put through a measure which cut at the standard of living in Britain, at the government's housing program, and at its own medical benefits scheme. Under pressure from the United States, the Labor government devalued the pound sterling. The consequences of devaluation were immediate rises in the cost of living for the British people. Yet, while taking this step, the Labor government forced upon the Labor-dominated Trade Union Council a wage-freezing policy, and called for further austerity.

The high hopes of 1945 were certainly not realized.

But, if the working class and the middle classes had turned away from Conservative to Labor in 1945, why did the Conservative vote increase in this election?

* * *

IT is fairly evident that the industrial workers, (by far the largest single group in Britain), again voted Labor. After all, the Labor Party secured over 13,000,000 votes. But, considering that the hopes of 1945 were not realized, why is it that the more militant among the workers at least, did not move further to the left and vote for the 100 Communist candidates?

The Communist Party had a bad time of it in these elections. Willie Gallacher, who had represented a Scottish electorate for 20 years, was defeated. Piratin, the other Communist member in the last parliament, polled so few votes that he almost lost his deposit. That is, he almost failed to poll one-eighth of the total votes in his electoral district; in which case he would have had to forfeit the £150 which each candidate must put up when entering an election. Other Communist Party candidates did equally poorly.

One reason given for the inability of the Communist Party to capitalize on the dissatisfaction with Labor is that the daily press, and every agency that attempts to form public opinion, has thoroughly blackened the name of the Soviet Union in Britain, and effectively linked the British Communist Party with the Soviet Union in this blackening process, forcing the Communist Party on the defensive.

The other suggestion is that the British Communist Party, with its meager strength and leadership, did not bring forward a sufficiently realistic program to which the voters might respond. A report of the British Communist Party's program suggests that "socialism" was raised as an issue. The British working class is reputedly practical and not interested in theory. Certainly it is not inclined to vote for a party that obviously has no present chance of putting a theoretical idea into practice.

The industrial workers, undoubtedly voted Labor again. The increased Conservative vote came from the middle groups, although some of the more comfortably-off among the working class, and working class housewives dissatisfied with continued rationing, may have voted Conservative too.

* * *

THE Conservative increase came from those groups on fixed salaries who have a position to maintain, the small traders and shopkeepers, the professional groups, all of whom are most susceptible to every threat to their security and who, at the same time, identify their personal prosperity with the general state of health of Britain's imperial economy.

Devaluation and its consequences are sure to have upset such people. The bogey of communism, Britain's increasing dependency on America and

involvement in the dollar crisis, without any prospect of relief in the continuation of Labor policies, must have made this middle section of the population anxious to find a way out.

From the election results, it seems that the Conservatives, under Churchill's leadership, gave the uneasy middle groups some hope of a solution.

In a broadcast speech on January 21, it will be recalled, Churchill claimed that only a Conservative victory could assure "not only our future as a leading nation in world thought and progress, but also our physical ability to maintain our vast population upon decent standards without foreign charity."

While avoiding a direct attack on Marshall aid, Churchill nevertheless intimated during the election campaign that the Conservative Party could rescue Britain's imperial economy from dangerous dependency on American "charity." There seems no doubt that this approach was appealing. Also, taking a lesson from President Truman, who raised the question of sending Justice Vinson to bargain with Stalin a week before the American elections in 1948, Churchill, a week before the British elections, said he might make a personal approach to Stalin to solve the atomic weapons impasse and the threat of war if he were elected Prime Minister. This, too, may have won a number of voters to the Conservative Party.

* * *

THE situation is now that the Labor Party continues in power with a very slender majority. In Britain, America and France, the overwhelmingly conservative daily press is announcing that the Labor Party must soon resign and hold another election, meanwhile abandoning its pre-election promises to nationalize a section of the steel and a small section of the sugar industries.

What can be expected is continuous attrition in parliament against the Labor Party with the Conservatives using every means to unseat it or force another election.

But this is not expected to mean very much to the political scene in Britain as a whole.

The largest group in the country is still the industrial workers. Prices are rising while wage increases are being strongly opposed by Conservative, Liberal and Labor alike. Unemployment is on the increase. Many of the most powerful trade unions within the Trade Union Council have refused to accept the official wage-freezing policy.

The basic problems of the standard of living of the people, the dangerous dependency on America, and the threat of war, have to be solved.

How long the British industrial worker will prefer the lesser evil, and how long the middle classes will place their confidence in hopes and promises, will probably depend on forces outside the control of both Labor and Conservative parties.

We Wouldn't Bet on It

The Chinese Nationalist Ministry of Economic Affairs announced on Tuesday that Japan will buy 600,000 tons of iron ore from Hainan in 1950.—Press agency dispatch from Hongkong on February 22.

The buyer may be available, but we wonder if the seller will be around long enough to close the deal.

25 Years Ago In *The China Weekly Review*

Manchuria Needs People

February 28, 1925

No one who has traveled in Manchuria during the past few years and studied the economic possibilities which are slowly being developed in that vast country can fail to realize that here there lies an untapped source of supply, the exploitation of which will become a matter of vital importance to the commercial interests of the world during the next decade. But before this development can take place it is necessary that the country be populated, a need that is rapidly being filled by emigrants from Russia, from Japan, and above all from China. To appreciate the celerity with which this is occurring it is necessary to recall that in 1897, that is prior to the construction of the Chinese Eastern Railway, the population of Northern Manchuria is said not to have exceeded 2,000,000 people, while at the present time that number has increased to more than 12,000,000.

From: "The Future Development of Northern Manchuria" by Lawrence Impey

Reporting on China

Floods, banditry and civil war—these are what we read in the newspapers about China. There is no gainsaying the fact that there is good reason for and considerable truth in these reports. But it is equally true that only the dark side of the situation is usually told and that impression of pessimism created thereby is at least out of proportion. We cannot blame the press agents for reporting only news of dark color, because other news is ordinary and tame, which does not give the proper appetite. To say that China is rebuilding the Yellow River bridge can never be expected to attract as much attention as to say that the bridge is blown up, even if only a fraction of a span is damaged. This is only an illustration to show the difficulties of the news agents. And it appears to me that bad things in China—such as holdups, bandits, etc.—seem to be much more efficiently broadcast than similar events that are cabled the other way.

From: "Real Progress in Spite of Floods and Civil War" by Chin-Chun Wang

10 Years Ago In *The China Weekly Review*

Shanghai Workers Strike

March 2, 1940

Several strikes, involving more than 6,000 workers and all resulting from the wages-cost of living situation, were in progress in Shanghai as this issue of The Review went to press. The bus service of the International Settlement stopped dead on Thursday morning when mechanics and service employees of the China General Omnibus Company struck for a 40 percent wage increase, a rice allowance of $7.50 per man per month, recognition of their union, double pay for work performed on Sundays and other holidays, and an annual bonus amounting to 24 days pay.

Some 2,500 casual workers employed by the Public Works Department of the S.M.C. on street-cleaning and in transportation were out for a rice allowance. At the Wing On Textile Company's plant 3,000 workers were on strike, while several hundred workers were on strike at the China General Edison Company, an American concern, whose factory is on Robison Road. Italian Marines, in whose defense sector the latter plant is situated, threw smoke bombs into the compound to disperse strikers who had closed the main gates and were preventing anyone from entering or leaving. They then reopened the gates.

Strikes in India

Labor troubles, closely tied in with the movement for independence, are plaguing the British authorities in India, according to a Transocean report from Rome on February 23 which said that 55,000 textile workers in Bombay and another 70,000 in Ahmedabad had decided to strike on Monday of this week following the breakdown of negotiations for a wage increase.

According to the Rome newspaper, Tevere, serious rioting has been taking place in Delhi, several persons being killed and a number injured in clashes with the police. . . .

The Dean of Canterbury tells how

Russia Builds For Peace

NO housewife hangs the washing on the line when she sees the storm approaching. And no nation spends its time and substance on massive peaceful construction when it knows that war impends, still less when itself plans such war.

It was the massive, peacetime construction that met us, the English delegates to the Moscow Peace Conference, outside the Conference Hall, as well as in it, that to my mind spoke most eloquently of Russia's peaceful intentions.

And that says much, for the speeches were passionately and rationally directed towards peace. One may well ask in passing, would any nation stimulate its nationals to peace, if war was contemplated? One might ask again, indeed, why do the western countries not only plan no Peace Conferences themselves, but hinder those who do?

Peaceful Panorama

But to return to this peacetime constructive effort. We met it everywhere and in all circles, artistic, literary, scientific, industrial or agricultural. We saw it in activities as well as in words. It was a strangely moving peaceful constructive panorama that met us everywhere.

Take Moscow's building program. We studied it thoroughly. The Museum of Moscow gave us the clues we needed, with its panorama of what Moscow was and is, illustrated graphically on a huge map, lit with a different series of lamps, denoting stages of growth which culminated in a detailed vision of the city that is to be.

Broad highways are to pierce their way, north, south, east and west, roads from the heart of the Soviet Union to and from the far Soviet Republic, with fine approaches to the city itself—one nearing completion I saw in early morning dusk, a majestic crescent shaped semi-circle of buildings with the highway piercing its axis.

Other great roads encircle the city in concentric rings. Mighty buildings, placed with neighborly consideration to adjacent properties, are rising to ennoble it. Homes for the people take a foremost place, built with speed to house a city which has grown from 1,000,000 to 5,000,000 in 30 years and still is terribly over-crowded.

Nothing could be more thorough than the scientific approach of Russia towards her huge building program. Nothing, for instance is better calculated to train and stimulate inventors, technicians and craftsmen than the Moscow permanent Exhibition of Construction with its nightly lectures and its many halls of fascinating exhibits.

New Techniques

Russia has no trade secrets. Every fresh advance in techniques is speedily made available for all. I was much interested, for instance with the announcement some years ago of walls built with foam cement, sprayed on parallel sheets of wire netting.

> The Dean of Canterbury, Dr. Hewlett Johnson, visited the Soviet Union last September, when he attended a peace conference in Moscow. In this article, written for the *China Weekly Review*, he describes some of his observations in the course of his visit. Dr. Johnson, who has been one of the leading proponents of the world peace movement has participated in a number of peace conferences recently. Dr. Johnson is a trained civil engineer and an author of many books including "The Socialist Sixth of the World."

The whole process of foam building and cementing, from A to Z, is exhibited in detail in the Moscow Museum, with the raw materials and actual appliances used and photographs of operations on ceilings and walls.

Naturally, again, I was interested in methods of laying bricks at speed. One large room was set aside for instruction on speed brick-laying. On the floor were the appliances used, the special frame container, for instance, in which a hundred bricks were piled. The bottom of the container, standing on side supports was slightly raised from the ground to enable one end of a beautifully balanced trolly to slide beneath it and by an easy pull lift it to wheel wherever wanted, as a railway porter moves a pile of luggage. The shape, the design, the lightness and strength of this and other means of porterage of material for moving material by hand or crane were all exhibited in full-sized appliances.

The process of building was exhibited by splendid models and by photographs on the walls, and studying that exhibition I was completely equipped to understand the whole method of procedure, even before I stood on the fourth storey of a block of flats and watched a team of one craftsman and four girls lay bricks at the rate of 8,000 a day. Another girl operated the crane.

There was no undue haste. The record in a straight wall is some three times that amount. Method and brain were the secret. Every worker is encouraged to invent fresh speed devices. It is the workers who perfect the processes.

The block of flats on which I stood gave a splendid view of the lay-out of as grand a housing estate as one could wish to see, where town and country blend and which, after some two years work, will house 15,000 citizens.

Externally these flats remind one of the West and boulevards in Paris. And the rental of a three roomed flat, with bathroom and central heating, costs no more than 20 ice-creams!

Russian Skyscrapers

Modified sky-scrapers also arise—not so tall as in the USA and less blatantly functional, as their leading architect Mordinov and his fellow-architects explained to us, more in keeping with Russia's traditional architecture with its dependence on skyline and its sense of amplitude.

I visited one skyscraper, a huge administrative building-to-be, standing nobly by itself with space around it. I looked down at the deep foundations and up at a maze of girders. The foundations were begun in March of last year. By the beginning of September the 20th storey had been reached. Three years from start to finish will complete the building.

With similar speed the magnificent new university buildings are arising on a nobly sloping site and in spacious grounds running down to the Moscow River. A majestic central building of 26 stories is balanced by widespreading flanking wings, looking out at the back on green lawns, and hostels with accommodation for more students than any British university possseses.

Ten or more such monumental buildings are projected. Indeed wherever one looks construction proceeds, within the city and outside it. And what happens in Moscow happens throughout the Soviet Union. The people are bent on peaceful construction. War does not enter into Russia's policy. Had it been otherwise, building would not proceed in vulnerable areas with such whole-hearted thoroughness.

Industrial Production

The figures of the United Nations World Economic Report for 1948, published in New York, gave the index figure for the industrial production of the leading countries in 1948 on the basis of 1937, as 100. They run as follows:

USSR	171
USA	170
United Kingdom ..	110

Thus the USSR heads the list of all countries in the degree of recovery, not only in Europe but in the world. Yet the Soviet Union suffered war devastation without parallel, equivalent to the destruction of one third of its output. The United States suffered no war devastation, but was able to utilize war for enormous expansion of its plant and equipment. The United Kingdom suffered comparatively slight war devastation. Nevertheless by 1948, within three years of the end of the war, the Soviet Union had exceeded pre-war output in 1937 by 71 percent as against the United States, 70 percent, and the United Kingdom, 10 percent. The preliminary figures for 1949 show still further advance.

— *HEWLETT JOHNSON*

The Wrath of the Chien Tang River

A member of the Rural Service Corps reports on nine days' work with the peasants in the newly liberated countryside of North Chekiang province.

IN the afternoon of September 12, I went to the country with some comrades of the Rural Service Corps. We spent that night in the offices of the Hang Hsien People's Government where I met some young and intelligent girls who had joined in revolutionary work after the liberation of Soochow and Hangchow.

The next morning about a dozen of us proceeded to the countryside of Kiang Nan (south of the Yangtze River) aboard two small boats. Our boatman was a dumb mute. He had a young woman about 28 years of age as his assistant, rowing a big oar vigorously at the stern. An old woman sat by the side of the little cabin with her grandson. The distance was nine *li* (about three miles). JMP2,000 was the fare.

The boat was so small that the six of us had to squat in the bow, stern and the middle part. Whenever some of us moved a little bit, the boat would tip and the dumb boatman would make some expression on his face to warn us to sit tight and not stir.

"Madam, how's business?" I began to talk with the old woman.

"It's bad," she answered.

"Very bad," her daughter-in-law continued, "yet it's better than two months ago. People are afraid of bandits, you know. Not many passengers."

"The Liberation Army is clearing up the bandits everywhere. Business will be good when the bandits are all cleared," I said.

"That's it. That's what we hope for."

* * *

WHEN we had just passed the town of Kung Cheng Bridge, where the offices of the Hang Hsien People's Government are situated, we saw long and narrow footpaths on both banks of the river connected by a small stone bridge, beyond which were many mulberry trees dispersed irregularly here and there, and paddy fields divided in small partitions. Everything was the same as it was 100 years ago. Blood and tears had crystallized in the furrows of these fields.

A shabby-looking pavilion stood on the bank with the houses and huts of the Hsieh Village in the background. Opposite the pavilion was a lone teahouse near the canal in which we were sailing, and a small stream ran by it. Beyond the teahouse, shaded by another grove of mulberry trees, was the village of Eight Character Bridge.

During July, in the days when the bandits and agents were comparatively active, a messenger comrade of the Liberation Army was murdered. He was on his way back from Shao Ho Hsiang where he had delivered some message, riding a bicycle, when several bandit agents sprang out and killed him. His body was tied up to a pillar in the pavilion.

Another case followed suit. At dusk one day three comrades of the Rural Service Corps, while walking along the path near the Eight Character Bridge, were kidnapped by the bandit agents. Later, they were brought to the pavilion and tortured. Two of them were "old comrades" who had been in revolutionary work for many years. They told the bandit agents, "You may kill us. He is a student, fresh from school and has not done much. A good young man. You set him free." But all of them were killed at last. Dying, the young man cried out, "Long live the Chinese Communist Party."

This young man was a student of the Hangchow Youth Staff Personnel School. To avenge their schoolmate, students of this school had since come down to work in the villages in large groups carrying arms. They were determined to "forge" themselves in the countryside and to serve the peasants.

In the teahouse mentioned above an intelligence man was assigned by the bandit ring leader, Shen King Pao, to gather intelligence about the general military and political conditions of the local people's authorities. Shen himself was active in the areas of the Fifth West District. One morning two comrades, while shopping in a store in Hsieh Village near the river, suddenly heard a peasant crying, "Shen King Pao! Shen King Pao:" with his hand pointing to a small boat crossing the river.

"Stop! Row to this Side!" our comrades shouted and fired a shot.

Ignoring the warning, the men in the boat rowed to the opposite side of the river. The second shot knocked one of them down. Shen's henchman. Shen jumped into the water, swam to the opposite bank and disappeared.

Shortly after this incident, the intelligence man in the teahouse was discovered.

On September 11, Shen, with eight bandit soldiers and 13 rifles, surrendered to the Liberation Army near the Hsiang Fu Bridge.

Today even the bandit agents know that there is no future for them. Only a few of them, the die-hards, refuse to repent and improve themselves. But everyone of us, every comrade of the Rural Service Corps, should be careful not to be arrogant, self-content and negligent because of the victories, lest we suffer setbacks and inflict losses on the people. Neither should we overlook the bandit suppression work, thinking the activities of the bandits are merely sporadic and insignificant. If there remains a single bandit agent, the people will have no peace.

* * *

BY noon we arrived at Yi Chia Tang, a small town surrounded by villages some half *li* away. Comrades who came several days earlier helped us understand the general conditions of the local villages. After supper we joined a mass "struggle" meeting held near the Eight Character Bridge "to clear accounts on the taxes for able-bodied youth" (payment to avoid KMT conscription--Ed.).

The houses of the village in which we took up our quarters lined the bank of a tributary of the canal and their gates faced the river. Conspicuous among these poor houses stood the two-storey large house of the deputy chief of the *hsiang*.

The peasants of this village all belonged to the family of Yo. The bogus deputy chief of the *hsiang* was not only rich but powerful. The people had many reservations against him for he used to trespass on their lands, maltreat them and was connected with the bandits. He was later arrested by the Public Safety Bureau of the Hang Hsien county.

* * *

AT dusk some 300 peasants came from the nearby villages. They sat in threes and fours on the benches arranged in rows on the open ground in front of a house, surrounded by mulberry trees, whose branches could be touched with the hands. No women were there for they were shy and dared not attend a public meeting. Even for these men, it was the first time that they had held a meeting like this. Their eyes were open wide as if they were looking at some show in the spring festival.

A comrade said something first and, since he was a northerner, his words were interpreted into local dialect by a native youth. What he said was to ask the peasants to listen to him attentively, and not let the children run about, and not make noise by patting their legs with big fans (for it was early autumn and the mosquitos were still active).

The peasants did what he asked them to do and were all ears to what he had to say about the objectives of this meeting.

Then they began to complain. One after another they stood up, went to the recorder's desk and described their sufferings as a result of the collection of the tax for able-bodied youths.

An old man said that his son was dragged away when he was 37 years of age, unqualified for the army, and nothing had since been heard of him. A young man told how the *pao* chief of the eighth *pao* (a *pao* is a group of 100 families) squeezed money out of the tax collected. Another youth charged the same *pao* chief with maltreating his family.

The women began to appear in twos and threes. There was no room for them to sit in the front rows of the benches and they had to stand on those in the rear, holding the branches of the nearby mulberry trees, gazing and listening.

"Why did you not come earlier?"

"Girls are shy, you know," a young and plump woman answered, her round face smiling.

"I am a girl, too. In the new society, girls attend public affairs just as men. Don't be shy. You should come when the meeting opens next time." I said.

A middle-aged peasant standing nearby interrupted, "The women here are ignorant."

"What do you think of the meeting?" I asked him.

"Ha! Wonderful! Why not? How could the 'red legs' (farmers) talk like that before? The rich men were in power. They had money and influence and what they said went."

"Shall we clear the accounts of the tax for able-bodied youths?" a peasant cried out excitedly after finishing his complaints.

"We shall," all the farmers replied raising their voices.

The corrupt and vicious *pao* chief wanted to continue to defend himself when there came the cry, "Bind him up! Bind him up!"

The peasants were in high spirits as if they had won a battle, and began to disperse. Talking and laughing they walked toward their homes.

Aboard the ferry boat a peasant chatted with me. "We farmers are foolish. Foolish! We can't read and can never play against the wicked. They have better brains. We always lose," he said.

"You don't have to think that you're foolish and no good. You get together and things will be done. We'll help you. We're at your back."

"Ha! Then we'll count on you," he said.

It was 10:00 p.m. when we got back to our village.

From the window of the bogus deputy *hsiang* chief's two-storey house, we gazed at the hazy hills in the south. Lights were seen here and there at the foot of the hills which ran all the way eastward to the mouth of the Chien Tang River. There the wrathful waves were surging. They would surge more and more ferociously over the whole area of Chekiang.

* * *

ON September 14, I went to the East Willow and West Willow Villages with the comrades of the Service Corps. The residents of these two villages had been organized into three *chia* (a *chia* is a group of 10 families), two for the East Willow Village and one for the West Willow Village. They were under the jurisdiction of the tenth *pao*.

While walking on the footpaths in the fields, we exchanged a few remarks with the peasants working there. The weather was bad this year and worms were discovered everywhere in the paddy fields. In those fields which had been flooded for a while and were cultivated later there was little hope of producing anything. Beneath the mulberry trees beans were cultivated but they were not flourishing. The cotton fields were decorated with only a few white balls of cotton. All the fields appeared to be neglected.

For the farmers in the old society who worked like slaves, it was only natural to dislike labor, and it was impossible for them to take proper care of their land. No matter how industrious they were, they couldn't get what they produced but had to hand it over to the landlords. When the farmers themselves become masters of their land in the future, their attitude toward labor will undoubtedly be different.

In these villages, with the exception of the houses of the landlords and those of the rich peasants, the houses of the middle-class and poor peasants were very crowded and filthy. Actually they were not "houses" but partitions of a long and narrow house, for they were under the same roof and divided only with some broken mats or even piled up faggots.

Each house or partition consisted of three rooms or parts. The outer one was used as the dining room and the place to raise silkworms in spring. In the middle part was the stove and the inner one was used as a bedroom. These three parts were in some cases divided with boards. For those who were worse off things were littered in their "house" and no division of the "rooms" could be seen. Under such conditions, sanitation was of course out of the question. Any contagious disease contracted by one family would spread immediately like wild fire.

At that time, malaria and dysentery were rife. There was another acute contagious disease that caused the patient's death within only a few hours. During the several days I was there three cases of this disease were discovered and all the three patients died. No doctor or medicine was available in the villages. In the near future, I hope there will be circuit hospitals working in the countryside. I further hope that our young doctors and nurses will systematically extend their work to the villages to serve the peasants who are so desperately in need of medical care.

* * *

I MADE a preliminary survey of the general conditions in the West Willow Village which cannot be regarded as complete and finally conclusive. Yet it serves to help in understanding the real condition in the North Chekiang rural areas.

It was generally acknowledged that the whole area south of the Yangtze and north of the Chien Tang River was comparatively richer than other parts of China. Hence the common saying, "Overhead is paradise while beneath the sky are Soochow and Hangchow."

This saying can be true only after the realization of agrarian reform. At present there is nothing paradise-like in the countryside, only poverty and desolation as a consequence of the KMT reactionaries' ruthless exploitation.

In this particular village there are only 14 families and a one-class primary school.

Following are the conditions of these 14 families:

Miss Yang A-yu: age 28; idiotic, partially disabled, beggar.

Mr. Yang Hsiang-shan: age 27; living with his mother, wife and a little son; lessee of some four *mow* of land; yearly income insufficient to provide enough food (rice) for the whole family who were fed two to three months a year on beans and a certain kind of water fruit called *Po Chi;* doing odd-jobs for other people whenever such jobs are available to earn some extra money; raising silkworms in the spring, very little, as the supply of mulberry tree leaves from his leased land was limited; raising one hog; his wife spinning some crude cotton yarn and doing some hoeing work.

Master Yang Sung-lin: age 14; living with his mother, grandmother and a stepfather whom his mother remarried after the death of his father; lessee of two *mow* and owner of a little more than three *mow* (including paddy fields and mulberry tree field); livestock, two goats; raising silkworms in spring; yearly income insufficient to provide enough food for whole family.

Mr. Yang Ah-sung: age 29; family members including parents, wife, two sons and a 21-year-old younger brother (father, aged 60, unable to do heavy farm work; mother, aged 58, with one leg disabled and suffering from the disease of "swollen leg"); lessee of four *mow* and owner of one; raising silkworms in spring and autumn; yearly income far from sufficient to provide enough food as whole family living on beans for several months a year; doing rice-grinding and other odd jobs to earn some extra money; yet he was forced to pay last year three piculs of rice for the tax of able-bodied youths and would have to pay more this year if he had not been liberated.

Mrs. Yang Yu-chuan: age 30; widow (married twice, her second husband died three years ago) living with a four-year-old son and an aged mother who was a professional Buddhist and masseuse; having about one *mow* of land of her own, cultivated with employed labor, raising no silkworms; living standard low.

Surveying the Land—Wen Niu

Mr. Yang Ying-sen: age 35; living with wife and 13-year-old daughter; having reclaimed four-tenths *mow* to plant cotton and beans, and leased one and three-tenths *mow* of paddy fields on the other bank of the canal, far from his living quarters; insufficient income subsidized with extra pay by doing rice-grinding and other odd jobs; rental paid for his leased one and three-tenths *mow* last year 0.75 piculs of husked rice.

Mr. Yang Tsai-liang: age 26; and family members including grandmother, wife, five-year-old daughter, an 18-year-old employed worker and his bachelor brother; raising silkworms in spring; livestock, three goats; lessee of nearly 10 *mow* from a landlord relative; this family used to belong to the landlord class before their some dozen *mow* of first class paddy fields were forced to be sold to a certain evil but powerful landlord named Yu at a price as cheap as 300 dollars (Nationalist currency) as a result of a court suit, and they became lessee farmers after they lost their own land; according to the grandmother, because of the injustice done to them, her son and daughter-in-law died one after another with "their hearts eaten away by sorrow and anger," and the grandmother herself attempted once to drown herself but was saved by the neighbors. (The landlord was such a despot that when the old lady told us the story she warned us never to divulge what she said to anybody.)

Mr. Yang Tze-tien: age 38; family members including his wife and three sons; an employed worker himself with a yearly income of eight piculs of rice payable in installments; helped by their 14-year-old son, his wife reclaimed one odd *mow* to plant cotton and beans and raised rice crops in another one odd *mow* of leased land; raising a few silkworm in spring and autumn.

Mr. Yang Ying-tien: family members including mother, wife and three sons (the eldest one was 11 years old); having reclaimed one odd *mow* to plant cotton and beans and leased about two *mow* of paddy fields; yearly income providing insufficient food for the whole family; doing odd jobs to earn extra money.

Mr. Yang Ying-feng: age 25; family members including mother, wife, and a four-year-old son; employing a boy as shepherd taking care of three goats at an annual pay of one odd picul of rice; having some nine *mow* of his own out of which three *mow* cultivated with cotton and beans; forced to pay the tax for able-bodied youths twice last year.

Mr. Yang Tsai-hwa: family members including mother, wife and three daughters (eldest 12 years old); having some dozen *mow* of his own; employing a boy shepherd to take care of three goats; raising silkworms in spring and autumn; cultivating cotton, beans and rice.

Mr. Yang Tsai-yung: age 46; elder brother of Mr. Yang Tsai-hwa; family members including wife and three sons, their mother being jointly supported by the brothers; eldest son 20 years old and capable of doing farm work; livestock, two goats; raising silkworms in spring; his wife doing some spinning of crude cotton yarn; yearly income barely sufficient to provide enough food for the whole family; no money to cover medicine cost.

Mr. Yang Ling-chang: age 40; family members including mother, wife, three sons and two daughters; eldest son age 17 studying medicine in Hangchow; having some 30 *mow* of his own out of which about 20 were leased out; raising silkworms; employing a farm worker and temporary help whenever necessary.

Mr. Hsu King-pao: age 45; living with mother and four-year-old son; migrated from Shaosing, East Chekiang, with his mother after the death of his father; his mother knew somebody in the nunnery in this village and settled down for a while in it, working as cook for the village primary school, until the KMT troops destroyed the houses of the nunnery; later they moved into a vacant house originally belonging to a Ting family whose members all died; a hawker of fruits and firewood; living together with them was an old woman, a professional Buddhist.

It should be pointed out here that in this survey the figures of land tilled or leased by the 14 families are unreliable as the peasants still have reservations and won't tell us the whole truth.

* * *

FROM the talks with these peasants, I had the impression that at present the middle-class and rich peasants were most concerned with the suppression of bandits, while the poor wanted the settlement of rentals which they expected to be reduced. Usually the rentals were settled before the autumn harvest but owing to the different conditions this year the settlement of rentals was not yet started. However, some of the landlords on the excuse of being short of food had already collected in advance their rentals for the current year at a rate of five to seven *tou* (one *tou* equals one-tenth picul) per *mow*. We told them that if all the poor, employed and middle class peasants would stand together, and join the peasants' association, they might settle the rentals this year by themselves. (The custom has been that the rentals are adjustable every year according to the conditions of the crops.)

The second problem in their minds was the future of the silk business. They told us that for the absolute majority of the peasants in this area, at least six months a year they must live on income from the "babies" (silkworms) for they could never produce enough food to eat from the fields. The prices of spring cocoons this year were so low that they could hardly cover their costs (about five to ten *tou* of rice for 100 ounces of silk). Some peasants raised silkworms this autumn. They were grateful to the Liberation Army, which supplied silkworm germs at a low price.

There is a feudalistic custom in China that when a family lacks a male heir, or if there is a shortage of labor power or for other reasons, the parents of a family may select for their daughter a son-in-law who is to stay with them after marriage and be regarded as a member of their family. The younger generation of this couple retain the names of both of their parents with that of their mother first. In the East Willow and West Willow Villages there were many cases of this practice. This shows the shortage of tillable land that gave those young peasants, deprived of land, no means to make a living but to "marry out" themselves. In such cases, the son-in-law has very insignificant standing in his wife's family, like a daughter-in-law in feudalistic families.

As a consequence of the long-time reactionary rule of the Japanese puppet government and the KMT, the resources of the rural areas in Chekiang were drained. The peasants were mostly bankrupt and downcast. Being trodden over for so long they have almost lost their self-confidence, and they believe in predestination. They follow the paradoxical saying, "The poor rely on the rich while the rich rely on Heaven." We told them, "This saying is wrong, the truth being that the rich rely on the poor while the poor rely on themselves. If the farmers refuse to cultivate the land, how can the landlords eat their 'peaceful meals'?" They nodded, smiling.

* * *

I ONCE joined a meeting of the employed poor and middle-class peasants in the East Willow Village.

It was hot. Farmers simply could not work under the scorching sun at noontime and had to do most of their work in the morning and evening. After luncheon they rested a while and we took this chance to hold a meeting.

Bringing benches with them, they went to a vacant room of a landlord's house used for the placing of farm tools, where the meeting was to be held. They sat in a circle, all of them lean, pale, barefooted, with their trousers rolled over their shins. Some had their shirts off. Their backs and legs were deeply tanned. So they called themselves the "red legs" and the old rich landlords, the "white legs."

The leader comrade of the working team talked first. Some other comrades said something afterwards. The peasants listened attentively. They understood now that the working teams of the Rural Service Corps had come to work in their interests and that the peasants' associations to be organized were their own and entirely different from those under the KMT reactionary rule.

"The 'red legs' are turning about! Everything is to be turned upside down now." They laughed and talked.

Though such understanding was achieved, they had something fresh to worry about. "If the comrades go someday, what can we do then?"

"We shall stay on forever!"

Following the development of mass movements in the rural areas, the countryside will revive gradually. Millions of peasants in Chekiang will be awakened from the age-old feudalistic exploitation and rise like one giant. Someday they will roar like the wrathful waves of the Chien Tang River.

— *CHEN HSUEH-CHAO*

Translated from the Wen Hui Pao.

A CHENGTU DIARY

The city of Chengtu, in Szechuen about 150 miles northwest of Chungking, was liberated at the end of December—the last major city on the mainland to be freed from Kuomintang rule. The following account of the period immediately preceding and following the city's liberation is condensed from a diary kept by a Canadian missionary, Mr. Earl Willmott. Mr. Willmott is a professor at the middle school of West China Union University. He has lived in China for some 20 years.—Editor.

I—LAST DAYS OF THE KMT

Monday, December 5

THE city is flooded with trucks and cars and troops. The troops of Fu Tsong-lan (Hu Chung-nan) are pouring from the north, walking and in truck and car. The trucks are practically all the big 10-wheel US Army trucks—part of America's colossal attempt to stop the clock of social progress in China. There must have been hundreds and hundreds of them already passed through the city. The final run away! What an ignominious end to America's five billion dollar effort to stop communism in China! It would be easier to "contain" the mighty Mississippi! Not because the Communist armies are so strong, but because 99 percent of the people are fully behind them.

The people of the city are jittery. So many things might happen: the stubborn gang at the top might order the defense of the city, retreating soldiers might run riot, gangs of robbers might loot, revengeful troops might fire the city. *No one* seems to fear the Communists—all the apprehension is about what will happen before the Communists come.

Wednesday, December 7

Mr. Lu Pang-pen came out of prison today—held since April 20 when an armed group of special police took him from his bed in the school. Extraordinarily he was treated fairly well; not bad food, no torture as some others got. But 10 crowded into a small bedroom just large enough for five single beds—no mosquito nets in summer! No letters or communications, but gifts of food OK.

Thursday, December 8

Going into the city this afternoon (it was said that no one was allowed in this morning, perhaps because of the important movements) I felt a different atmosphere. People were not moving so fast; there seemed to be a more relaxed spirit. Then I heard that the "Central" government had all cleared out. And the Military Academy and all the Stormtroopers quartered in different parts of the city were all gone. Hurrah! The troops left would of course just turn over when the appropriate time came.

We had Lu Pang-pen and his wife and two little boys for tea. He said that a number in the prison where he was for seven and a half months were executed. Others were let out. Their places were always taken by others immediately so that they were always crowded. This particular prison must have been an important one, for it was at military headquarters in the city and in it were some high military officers (as prisoners) and newspaper editors and professors. They were let out to exercise twice a day for 20 to 30 minutes. All the rest of the time they spent in their bedroom. He says that several were Christians and they taught others to sing hymns.

Friday, December 9

Where are the Communist armies? The Voice of America had them coming closer every day. At that rate they should have been here! Now no word. It is reported that they announced by radio that they would be here on the 12th. Everyone expected them before this.

Sunday, December 11

I went into the city to Shu Wa Kai church this morning. Around the door of the church are five abandoned trucks, stripped of everything removable. They were part of a big fleet which arrived last Sunday morning from Chungking bringing the personnel, belongings, and money of the Central Bank to their head office in Chengtu which is next door to the church. A few days after they went on—where?—leaving these trucks behind. Tires, wheels, doors, seats, engine parts, have all gone—a graveyard at the church door!

Our Middle School closed over a week ago, the principal in his apprehension of the situation taking advantage of a government order closing government schools. Just now several companies of the Peace Preservation Corps—no, not the people's militia, but the provincial government's special troops, under direct orders of the governor—have marched on to the Middle School campus and are moving into our dormitories and the school building! Not good!

What sorry-looking fellows are the troops of Fu Tsong-lan, which keep streaming through the city to the south. Today I passed long columns of them plodding along in the cold, thin rain, sloshing in the miry mud of the Chengtu streets. None of them had leather shoes; a few had tennis shoes; most had straw sandals; not a few had worn-out rubber soles tied on in odd ways, and some were barefoot! They carried various arms, including good American machine guns. One lad laboring under the weight of a machine gun frame, slipping along barefoot, was lagging a little. An officer gave him a clip with his stick to urge him to get back in place. The look of agony that tightened his face was heart-piercing.

Tuesday, December 13

We had to laugh at the radio tonight. It said that the resistance had completely broken down at Chengtu and the Communists were expected to enter the city today! But no one knows where they are! The foreign radio has brought them day by day right up to the outskirts of the city, put apparently they are not closer than 60 miles!

Wednesday, December 14

From 4:15 to 6:30 this morning we had a young battle not far away—all round the area outside the old south gate, and Wu Hou Sze Temple. The 24th Army (Liu Wen-hui's) were in the temple, and Fu Tsong-lan's troops attacked them. The reason, they say, is because the 24th attacked Fu's at the Hsin Djin river.

Thursday, December 15

Apparently the explanation of yesterday morning's show is that Liu and Teng (Teng Hsi-hou) and Fan had told the Communists they were ready to go over, and the news got out! (Those three are the big Szechuen warlords that have plagued the situation for so many years. Yang Sen is another of the same ilk, but he is still loyal to old Chiang. Fu Tsong-lan is a northerner and loyal to Chiang.) So Fu took steps to knock Liu out—and succeeded. Of course Liu has the main part of his armies to the west, but we hear that Fu is after him.

Liu has a number of big mansions in the city—every time he took a new wife he had to build another palace for her! And at the same time Fu's men were fighting Liu's outside the south gate, companies of Fu's took each of Liu's city houses. When they met any resistance they were ruthless. One of the largest was next to the Hwa Yin Girls School of our Mission. There the guard was either too stupid to surrender at once or they offered some resistance, and they were cleaned out. Forty-two guards and servants were killed. Last night they took a lot of firewood piled up there and doused it with many gallons of gasoline and burned up the corpses along with much opium!

People are being executed every day for very minor offenses. On Tuesday 24 were shot. There are notices around the city telling them what offenses are punishable with death: they include not obeying the military police when driving a vehicle, spreading rumors favorable to the "rebels," illegally carrying firearms, stealing from the troops.

Friday, December 16

Everything quiet. "Where are the Communists?" everyone asks. We are amused at the foreign radios. At first they had the Communists right up to the outskirts of Chengtu, just about to enter. Now they say they have been repulsed! We have heard no reports of any repulsion; they just haven't come! Reports that seem to be consistent would put them not

closer than 35 miles away—swinging around to the northeast and the south. It looks like their usual clever tactics of splitting up the KMT armies and then closing in quickly. Will they be here this year? We all hope fervently that they will not be too long.

Tuesday, December 20

This surely is exasperating. Day follows day and nothing happens! I have been at the office every day, but much of the time is spent in passing around news and rumors. The latest: Fu Tsong-lan has agreed to evacuate Chengtu and let Teng Hsi-hou take over until the Communists arrive. The "city fathers" managed this agreement. Everyone is holding his breath for fear it is only rumor!

Wednesday, December 21

Win greeted me this morning at the office with: "Do you know what the theme song is these days? 'I'm dreaming of a Red Christmas!'" Funny! A bunch of Christian missionaries longing for the Communists to come!

Governor Wang is said to have taken his Peace Preservation Corps of about 30,000 and is fighting his way to Ya-an against Liu Wen-hui. If so, he has Liu ahead of him and the Communists behind him with no way of escape! How I wish they would get him! Troops are billeted in almost every house along the quarter mile from the hospital to the city South Gate and on other streets round about.

Friday, December 23

The radio this afternoon told us that Fu Tsong-lan's armies had all evacuated Chengtu for the mountainous province of Sikang where they would carry on guerrilla warfare. What a laugh! There are loads of troops here still. And how can these hated armies be guerrillas? Guerrillas are only possible when the people support them. So it is quite impossible for Nationalists to be guerrillas. But are they going to stay and fight, or stay and surrender, or try to escape from Chengtu? They say the last. They have built pill boxes at the city gates. There are four at the New South Gate and quite a large guard there. And—a funny thing—one pill box is just *inside* the gate facing *inwards!* Where do they think their enemy is?

Monday, December 26

The turn-over on Christmas Day! We went to the morning service at Hart College at nine o'clock. During the hymn before the sermon I threaded my way to the door. Just then Lan Tien-ho (dean of studies and prominent leader in the Youth Corps) came running up with a note to send in to the minister to announce that the turnover had taken place, the troops of Fu Tsong-lan in the area had given up, Teng Hsi-hou's 95th army was coming in to hold the city for the Communists until they arrived, and asking everybody to keep off the streets, to stay at home during the period of the "vacuum"—a request of the University Protection Committee.

I started into the city one way (by the Gung Hsin Tao) and ran into a closed barricade, so I came back and headed across the campus for the New South Gate. . . At the city gate, where for days several pillboxes had been manned by a heavy guard, there wasn't a soldier. All along the street not a soldier or a policeman. Crowds of people sauntered along the streets.

Returning home I came around through the Old South Gate. In the center of the city I passed a number of trucks, bristling with machine guns—the 95th army coming in, and also police officers. They were already on guard at the city gate when I got there. And, very interesting, there were crowds and crowds of Fu Tsong-lan's men on all the streets around the Old South Gate and outside, with red arm-bands. They are troops that have gone over. Isn't this a funny war? But who wants to fight on the Nationalist side?

Tuesday, December 27

There is great glee this morning. Everyone is talking about it; and everyone feels like dancing. The news is that Wang Lin-chi has been caught, and is going to be turned over to the new government for trial. There is no doubt about the verdict—he will be executed. And if it is public, as I expect it will be, half the city will be there! For how he is hated!

He had just a little too much bravado. He thought he could get out the last minute. But the Nationalists at Kwanghan turned over just before he was to leave by plane for Formosa! Yesterday's paper reported him as having left the city two days before and so having flown to Formosa.

I previously wrote that he had led his Peace Preservation Corps against Ya-an. Well, he got within 15 miles of Ya-an and was there badly defeated. He managed to get back to Chengtu *alone* with just his driver in a jeep. The story is that he had no staff left here at all and had some difficulty in getting a meal! Then he went on to Kwanghan, which at that time was strongly held by Fu Tsong-lan's armies. But!! Fu Tsong-lan himself got away just in time, and is in Formosa presumably.

What a miserable bunch they will be in Formosa! And how they are hated by all the Formosans! Their day of reckoning is certainly coming, unless America, refuge of the world's reactionary scoundrels, invites them to come.

Tuesday Evening

This afternoon I visited the East Parade Ground. What a sight! It is one of several points where the surrendering troops of Fu Tsong-lan are assembling. The soldiers turn in their arms and are given a ration card. And all the army equipment that is set out in orderly array! Lines and lines and lines of trucks—all 10-wheeler American army trucks. Some of them were still piled high with ammunition. One line was all bull-dozers, and another road graders, and there were several large portable derricks with huge pneumatic tires four or five feet in diameter. All these were American. Crowds of civilians were walking up and down gazing at this great display of American effort to "contain Communism." What a picture it would make—taken from the city wall and published in the Sunday Supplement of a New York paper! A sarcastic editorial speaks of Santa Claus Fu Tsong-lan presenting all these American-made presents to Chengtu!

I suppose the fact of so much American help kept these KMT fellows hoping to the end. A friend of mine was talking with the Commissioner of Education only two weeks ago—even then the outlook for the defense of Chengtu looked dark, for anyone who could see at all. But this fellow told my friends that Fu Tsong-lan's army was strong and could hold out for several months and perhaps even push the Communists out of Szechuen again and by that time there would be a turn in international affairs—the USA and the USSR would be at war! And then these KMT guys would be sitting pretty. Blind fools! Well, Chengtu is the last important place to be liberated. Now it is a matter of cleaning up on a few isolated pockets and the mainland will be united again, under a People's Government, for the first time in all the long centuries of Chinese history.

Our Own Army is Coming—by Chiung Yang-yi

Interesting to compare the proclamations posted all around the city with those of a few days ago. Then it was death to anyone who did anything against the interests of the KMT armies; now it is: protection for life and property of everyone (foreigners especially mentioned), pardon for all but the top people of the secret police if they report, and request for cooperation of all for the peace and security of the city. As today's paper said, we have gone from dark night into the dawn of a new day!

* * *

II—FIRST TWO WEEKS

WE are just home from watching the big parade—General Ho Lung's army entered the city at eight o'clock and paraded from the North Gate through the city to the Central Park. All along every street in town the new Communist flag hung from almost every shop front. And every shop lantern—usually covered with white paper with written characters—was covered with red paper with the five yellow stars. Red banners were stretched across the street at frequent intervals.

Truck after truck passed our corner, packed solid with hilariously waving students and people. Many of them were full of defeated troops. Everyone carried little paper pennants with various welcoming slogans. They sang; they yelled. All were in high glee. Most of the defeated troops had fixed new bright red stars on their caps—and they waved their welcome as enthusiastically as anyone.

I wondered how they could possibly clear the street for the parade. It was 11:30 and still there was a solid line of trucks to the north and to the west, and it seemed as if the street was massed solid with people. But I was thinking of a Fifth Avenue parade! That requires room, with lines of soldiers passing all marching in step and looking straight to the front and all their rifles at the same slope. This parade was not like that!

At 11:45 we saw the head of the procession a block up Chwen Hsi Lu, squeezing its way along between trucks and masses of people. Great colored portraits of Mao Tze-tung and Chu Teh came first, followed by beautiful large red silk flags. And then the army—just as it would come along the road, with all its equipment and arms and pack animals. Several bands looked as if they were playing, but even though they were only 25 yards away from us, I could not hear them. The crowd kept up a continuous cheering and yelling and chattering, and the cars honked. The Communist soldiers smiled at the crowds, and swung along quite informally. A company of riflemen, a squad of signallers, a group of stretcher bearers, a battery of heavy machine guns, a troop of fellows with spades, Manchurian ponies with packs, trench mortars, light machine guns, field guns, heavy howitzers drawn by large trucks with the gun crew aboard, singing and shouting too. Several trucks of soldiers sang the National song "Chi Lai" as they turned our corner. Sometimes the crowd surged together and blocked the road. No one seemed disturbed; gradually they pushed back again and the parade went on. All was laughing and joking. For this was *liberation*—the *day of the people* had dawned and everybody realized it.

University Spirit

The new spirit has already begun to affect the University—just a little. The president appointed the deans to represent the University to welcome the People's Liberation Army. Some of the faculty said nothing doing. A new day had arrived—they wanted to elect their own representatives and also made a draft constitution for a Faculty Association. Two hundred and eleven members of the faculty came to the meeting yesterday afternoon—the largest number of faculty of our University that ever met together! We elected a *group* of chairmen—the office staff elected one, the assistants one, the instructors one, and the professors one. And in the constitution which was passed, each of these groups in each of the four colleges elect one representative to the Executive Committee.

It was thrilling to me to see the democratic process in action as they discussed the election of officers or the various points of the constitution. The *result* of the discussion did not seem very important, but the process was *very* significant; for this was the *first time* in the history of the institution when all the faculty members felt that *now* they would have a voice, and no fear of speaking out.

I was interested in the report of the representatives who met the Communist detachment which came in yesterday. An officer came out to speak with them and thanked them for their cordial welcome. They asked him for "advice," as is the usual Chinese custom. The usual response is a little "ah-ing" and bowing, but this Communist said, "Yes, three points: 1) everyone should get on with his own work as soon as possible; 2) teachers, students, and workers all together make the university, they together are the "masters" of the institution (Chu ren wong); 3) presently you all will have the opportunity to make suggestions as to how things can be improved and progress made—think about it and be ready to give your ideas freely." It is indeed a New Day!

Happy New Year!

I feel elated today. The new government is taking hold and getting things going so quickly. The Communist soldiers are being so friendly with the people. The students have spent much of the day in groups on the streets—not only expressing their exuberance, but trying to tell the people about it and educate them to understand the New Democracy. The post office is accepting letters for Hongkong and abroad.

I hear that after we left the parade on Friday afternoon (it went on till about 6:00—six hours altogether) it got more and more informal. The bystanders became more jovial, there was handshaking and talking and joking between them and the Communist soldiers. The soldiers hauled children up on to their trucks with them for a little ride. They sang and led songs as they went along. Later that day and yesterday the Communist soldiers wandered about the city and chatted with the people, telling them about their army and what they stood for and what kind of society was now going to take the place of the old one.

Oppression—by Chu Min-kiang

Communist Visit

At 12:30 today a middle school student came to the door and asked me if I would welcome some Communist soldiers; I said certainly and in a minute seven of them came marching in the gate all smiles and friendliness. The student disappeared entirely—I suppose they just asked him to come in to ask for them. One of them was a graduate of our middle school of five years ago, who had joined the Communists after his graduation. The others were his friends in the army. They had come in with the army on Friday, and this was his first opportunity to come to see his mother school and call on me. Our old woman servant, Fu Ta-niang, came in, and I told them how scared she had been of the Communists a few months ago. And she told them of the stories that people were spreading around about them and how they would treat people, and they all laughed heartily. But they didn't fail to get in a few sentences of explanation as to *why* the stories and why they do not treat people that way.

Our old gateman just now returned from the day in the city and came in greatly excited (6:30 p.m.). He said, "Oh, the city is exciting! It is 'hot-noise' in the extreme. People are in the park in crowds. My it is 'noise-hot'! Crowds! Never has there been such 'noise-hot'." And he waved his arms around excitedly. "Everybody is *so* joyful. The crowds are so thick you can hardly move. Ai-ya! Extremely 'hot-noise'!" I can imagine the "hot-noise" all right. The old boy has never seen anything like it in his life.

Wang's Whereabouts

Earlier, I told of our glee that the old Szechuen governor Wang was caught. He had been responsible for the killing of so many students and workers, a ruthless, cruel old warlord! Now we hear that he has been released! I suppose Liu Wen-hui hated to see a fellow warlord, even though an enemy, handed over to the Communists!

Dr. H. of the Church of England Mission, got a letter from his old friend,

Ho Lung, who is the general in charge of Chengtu, today, saying that he was so busy he had hardly had time to eat or sleep, but that in a few days he would call around. Not surprising, for they have got the banks going, the post office, have made a survey of accommodation throughout the city, appointed advisers to schools and probably lots more things. All by the third day! Efficiency!

Week of Jubilation

The sun has actually shone for seven days straight! An unheard of phenomenon in Chengtu. Last Monday and Tuesday (January 2 and 3) were New Year holidays, and the students made the most of them. They divided into groups and carried on their demonstrations on the streets and in the parks. The soldiers of the Liberation Army were also busy. Almost everywhere you looked were little groups of 10 or 12 gathered around a Communist soldier—sitting on the grass, standing at the street corner, sitting in teashops—the people or students asking all kinds of questions, the Communist patiently explaining every detail, whether about the route the army took on its way, how it fought, what it was going to do with the enemy soldiers, or what Marxism stood for.

Every organization is holding welcome meetings to show their gratitude to the Liberation armies. The feeling of gratitude is very deep. We all realize that it has been the sacrifice of the Liberation army which brought us this new day of freedom and justice.

KMT Murders

A few days ago they uncovered the shallow grave into which the corpses of the political prisoners had been thrown after they were shot. Our middle school dean, Lu Pang-pen, was asked to go and recognize some of them. He knew 32 of them—all those whom he had lived with in the central military prison. It is now established that they were killed on the evening of December 7—the very day that he was released! Among them was Miss Mao, a student of our University. Only a few inches of earth had been thrown over them and dogs had gnawed at feet and legs. The order for this brutal killing came from Governor Wang—probably originally from the very top, from Chiang Kai-shek, as he was in Chungking. (And by the way, we hear that Wang was released but hasn't got out of the province—they are after him! It will be difficult for him to disguise himself because of his one eye!)

Misguided Turn-over Troops

During the early days of this week, more and more people riding in rickshaws were told by soldiers to get out and pay off the puller: "It is beneath man's dignity to let another man pull you." "How can you allow a man older than yourself to pull you through the streets?" One rather large Chinese lady (an acquaintance of ours) was stopped and politely told: "You, a large person like that, must not ask a little fellow to pull you!" Fewer and fewer people rode rickshaws. Then the head of the Rickshaw Pullers Union went to see the Government, pointing out how serious this was for the 15,000 (perhaps even more) people who depended upon rickshaw pulling for a living. The Government people said: "We know nothing whatsoever about this. If you have any more trouble, ask the soldier for his regiment and number."

Quite a number of girls were stopped on the street and told, quite politely, "This is not the time to be using lipstick." Or, "You are wearing much too short a skirt." Then the Government put out a proclamation that people could dress as they liked, in any style of clothing and could use any cosmetics.

One man, a friend of an acquaintance of ours, was hard up for money, so decided to sell his gold ring on the gold market. He began looking for a buyer. But then two soldiers quietly ushered him round the corner and began to tell him that he was transgressing regulations and had just come to suggesting that if he gave them the ring he could go free when a Communist army street patrol passed by. One of them came over to see what was up and asked the man what he was doing. He began to explain his difficulty and how he needed to sell his ring. Then suddenly the two soldiers saluted the patrol, calling "Long live Chairman Mao!" and beat it as fast as they could go!

So among the turn-over armies there are rascals as well as silly revolutionaries! And they all make it hard for the new authorities.

Return to Normal

The city has quite returned to normal during this last week. The new Government asked everyone to carry on with their usual work. Civil servants *must* continue—for the meantime anyway—at their former jobs. Only the very top men are out—and most of them have gone to Formosa anyway, for they were all top KMT men. (Someone said the other day "Chiang Kai-shek had a particular knack of choosing bad eggs to fill all the important government posts." If that is so, the stink of Formosa will soon be smelled around the world!)

Many soldiers of all kinds continually coming and going or meandering around. A few of them are Communist regulars; they are the only ones who carry arms and almost every one of them carry small arms.

Soldier and Peasant—drawing by Yen Chiao, woodcut by Tsung Ku

The Communists do not look any smarter or cleaner than the others, but their uniforms are much better shoed and socked. They all have sturdy black cloth shoes with thick soles and good socks. All soldiers, so far as I see and hear, are very respectful to the people and pay for everything they need. But how many of them! They say there are 60,000 Communist regulars and over 200,000 turn-overs in and around Chengtu. No wonder General Ho Lung gets little sleep! They say that they are to be given their choice of receiving a pass to get them home—food and transportation, when there is any provided—or of joining the army, which will be put at some kind of constructive work.

No Resistance

IT looks now as if the reports of heavy fighting and all the gunfire sounds meant nothing. The troops that came into the city came from the north and all the way from Shensi had not fired a shot! Stockwell reports from Chungking that the official announcements of strong resistance and fighting were entirely false. The Communist armies came all the way from Changsha without catching up with the KMT armies, they ran so fast or turned over so quickly! It was a case of complete demoralization. A CIM missionary writes from a town to the southwest that the town was filled with Fu Tsong-lan's troops and Governor Wang Lin-chi's Peace Preservation Corps, when Communists attacked at night. They fired uproariously—into the air!—then opened the gates and surrendered to 120 Communists!

I was talking with Dr. P. C. Tung two days ago. He had just had a long talk with the officer in charge of health for the city. (Dr. Tung had been Provincial Commissioner of Health under the old government, but resigned some weeks before the turnover). Dr. Tung said that the new government had excellent plans for the health services of Chengtu. And he said he was amazed at how much they knew about the city. When the Liberation Army arrived in Chengtu, they were presented with a survey showing every hospital and giving a list of every doctor and what he was good for. Said Tung, "Think of the young people who risked their lives in preparing that survey!"

I hear that the new authorities went to the old municipal authorities and asked for a list of the "kung kwans" (the large mansions) of the city. "We haven't got one!" "Well," said the new man, "we have — look at this!" Another careful survey made under the eyes of the KMT secret police! How many others were there?

Eliminations and Additions

The new government has announced that for the meantime there will be no changes in the university, and everyone, students and teachers, are to carry on their work. Next term there will be eliminations and additions—anything of the old KMT smell will be put out, and courses on Marxism added. But we are free to give elective courses in religion—

which is better than under the KMT, for they would not allow religion, only Ethics (under which we smuggled in the Life of Jesus!).

No changes in personnel have been made. The president and the various deans remain the same. And I have not heard one word against any individual! I think that is really amazing, considering the feeling there has been against some of the administrative people. On the other hand, there is much talk of necessary changes in administrative methods, and criticism of existing bodies. Students are putting forth demands, and placards are up everywhere: no courses that are felt to be useless; out with teachers who are incompetent; equal treatment for foreign and Chinese staff; complete separation of religion and education; finances open—that all may know. Even the Theological College students are demanding big changes. It is really thrilling to see democracy really at work. Of course there will be some rash and unfortunate things done, no doubt, but how can learning be achieved without mistakes!

Organization Work

Meetings, meetings, meetings. Long speeches. Discussions. Organize the people. Existing organizations; new organizations. In school, hospital, office. Workers are so busy that they send word by friends that they haven't a minute. There is so much to do. A new society must be forged out of this ignorant, backward one.

A few days after liberation the Board of Elders of Shu Wa Gai Church was meeting. A Communist worker came to the meeting—uninvited! but quite welcome!—and gave them a talk on what the church could do to help and how it would be left quite free to carry on all its activities as long as it was not reactionary. The same fellow turned up at the women's meeting of the Sze Shen Tse Church the next day, and later at a meeting in the Mission Press. He is always asked to speak, and speaks very acceptably. The same thing is happening in every organization in the city—explaining, encouraging the people toward real democracy.

Five Communists have come to our University to live for a while. They have announced that they would like to talk with any one group about any question, especially about the University. I had a chat with one of these fellows yesterday. I asked about the former secret police and government agents—what were they going to do with them? After a while they would ask them to register (not just yet, for such an order would put fear into their hearts just now) and if they repudiated their past activities, they would be completely forgiven. Some people, he went on to say, criticize them for such tolerance, but they do not believe in revenge at all. I don't suppose any one of them would refuse to repudiate his past! If he did, no doubt he would be put in a training school.

You probably have heard of the Kwanhsien irrigation system which waters the Chengtu plain—an area of something like 300 square miles. Dikes and ditches must be cared for every year—and they have been for something like 2,000 years! But during the economic collapse of the last months and the complete impotence of the government, nothing had been done. The situation was critical when the Liberation Army came, for before long the spring waters would make work impossible. The new government acted immediately, for the livelihood of hundreds of thousands of people depended on this irrigation. I saw in the paper yesterday that the main work was completed—already! Efficient organization!

The city electric light company the other day announced in the paper a reduction of service because of shortage of coal and lack of deliveries. The government immediately sent two big army trucks: "Here are two trucks. Go and get your coal. Keep up service."

I hear from several different sources that there has been a disappearance of robbers and yellow fish—not only from Chengtu, but from the whole countryside. What a wonderful change! What a curse "yellow fish" have been!—people who by money or "pull" or intimidation got extra places on buses or boats when they were already full.

The sun still is showing itself daily!—an unheard of phenomenon for Szechuen winter! Everybody is talking about it and speaking of the line in one of the new songs: "The Liberated Area" which says, "The sun of the Liberated Areas never sets."

Student Meeting

The Christian Students Fellowship of the Middle School had a whole day's meeting on our front lawn today. Perhaps the most interesting part was the period of discussion. It was history-making. The students had become infected with the new virus—the virtue of democracy. They were not fanatic, but they were insistent. There must be a new kind of administration—a committee consisting of teachers' representatives, students' representatives, and workers' representatives. This committee must be the highest authority in the school. The teachers and the principal who were in the group, agreed that this is the only way under the New Democracy. Rules must be discussed by student groups and classes and finally decided in this Administrative Committee—also finances.

But we had the most interesting discussion in regard to dismissing teachers. The students said that teachers whom students thought unsuitable would have to go. The students said that teachers whom students thought unsuitable would have to go. The teachers tried to point out difficulties in this. The principal gave a suggestion which I think he considered very progressive: The students would give all their ideas to "us" and then "we" would investigate and find out the facts and decide what to do. I asked who "we" were. He repeated his idea using the term "school authorities." The students spoke up and said the Administrative Committee—for them no one was above that. The teachers didn't like the idea of teachers being discussed openly in such a group, but it was clear that the students felt convinced that this was the best way to have a good school!

Memorial Service

Yesterday afternoon I attended a three-hour memorial service for Miss Mao Yin-tsai. The walls were completely covered with white scrolls, the platform was elaborately decorated with funeral wreaths and a large bronze urn with incense burning in it. The whole meeting was very impressive. Miss Mao graduated last June. A few days after graduation she was arrested and put into the same prison as Mr. Lu Bang-ben—in the next room. Mr. Lu was one of the speakers, telling in impressive detail of the life in the prison: constant surveillance, no communication with outside or among themselves (of course they got round the latter), efforts, even to torture, to get Miss Mao to inform on others and to write a denunciation of Communism—either of which would have given her release!

Miss Mao became a symbol of the sacrifices of life that had been made that China might be freed. But because we all knew her, and because she was a young girl who had been cruelly massacred in the last mad act of revenge against a few helpless ones, all those in the packed hall were united in deep feeling and in determination to work on for what she was working for—a people's China. I was amazed that in that meeting no inciting words against those responsible for her arrest (the secret agents among the students or staff) or those who killed her were uttered. Only once I heard the word "revenge" and the speaker called for "revenge—not against those who killed her, but against the system that produced them!"

— EARL WILLMOTT

CORRECTION

There were two bad typographical errors appearing in the article "The Last Act on Taiwan," in last week's issue.

Page 191 column 1 fourth line from the bottom of the page reading, "Although most of the Japanese-KMT relations. . ." This sentence should have read, "Although most of the Japanese-KMT relations have been carried out in relative secrecy they have not all been. . ."

Page 191 column 2 the fourth line under the heading US Aid Continuing read, "Certainly it cannot be denied that is Washington appears to be doing two things at the same time." This sentence should have read, "Certainly it cannot be denied that Washington appears. . ."—Editor.

NEWS OF THE WEEK

British Election; East China Tasks; UNO World Economic Report

THE People's Liberation Army has captured the Nationalist naval base on the island of Namao, 50 kilometers north of Swatow, in a three-hour battle during a heavy storm on February 24, the *New China News Agency* reports.

The report says that Nationalist troops trying to escape in junks were mown down by artillery fire from a neighboring island.

Namoa was used by the Nationalists as a naval base.

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Chairman Mao Returns

CHAIRMAN Mao Tze-tung of the Central People's Government and Premier Chou En-lai have crossed the Soviet border into China on their way home from Moscow, *Tass* reported on February 26.

The leaders of the People's Republic of China and their party arrived in Moscow in mid-December and left on February 17.

On February 14, Chinese and Soviet leaders signed the 30-year Treaty of Friendship, Alliance and Mutual Assistance.

M. A. Lavrentiev, Deputy Foreign Minister, was among a group of Soviet officials who bade farewell to the Chinese delegation at the frontier station of Otpor.

A Guard of Honor was mounted and Chinese and Soviet flags flown.

On their way to Peking, the Chinese leaders visited Chita, in Siberia.

* * *

Main Tasks for East China

PRODUCTION and famine-relief work should be the central tasks in the East China zone, a *Giefang Rhbao* editorial said on February 25.

Quoting a new directive on production and famine relief issued by the newly-formed East China Military-Political Commission, the *Giefang Rhbao* said that all Communist Party, political, military and civilian personnel in East China should be speedily mobilized in accordance with this directive. They should rely on and lead the people in an all-out effort to overcome the consequences of natural calamities.

"At present there are some 10,000,000 famine victims in the various districts of the East China zone, while more than 1,000 victims have already died either from starvation or from sickness. Cases of the selling of wives and children have also been reported. The seriousness of the famine situation in the various districts is growing. Whether we can conquer this Act of God will be the acid test of the Chinese Communist Party as well as the People's Government," the editorial continued.

The paper mentioned that the spring ploughing season is coming soon and that, due to the periodical outbreak of natural calamities and devastation by the Chiang Kai-shek regime during the past few years, farmers are experiencing an acute shortage of seeds, manure, oxen, farm implements and labor. Consequently, alongside direct famine relief the greatest possible effort should be made to increase production in all areas. "Campaigns should likewise be launched outside of the regular occupations of public organizations, the army and schools," the *Giefang Rhbao* concluded.

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THE current Conference of Managers of the various branches of the People's Bank of China in the East China zone, has brought out the role played by the banks in famine relief, local press reports say.

A report from the North Anhwei branch of the Bank stated that the famine in 1949 has been the worst for 30 years. In North Kiangsu the situation was also very serious. In Shantung, floods in the spring were followed by drought in the summer, to which were added the calamities of hail and disease.

The branches of the People's Bank, responding to the call for production and a self-help movement among the peasants, undertook to issue various kinds of agricultural loans.

The South Anhwei branch of the Bank alloted half its funds to agricultural loans. The north Kiangsu branch also made agricultural loans its major task. The Shantung branch issued loans totalling 167,814,000 catties of foodstuffs and JMP175,718,000 in cash. All other branches issued loans amounting to thousands and millions of catties of foodstuffs.

Direct assistance was given to agricultural production, and the loans have proved important in developing cooperatives and in the education of the peasants in the selection of seeds, use of fertilizers and improvements in methods of cultivation.

Reports say that the activity of the People's Bank has created a very good impression among the peasantry, especially among the poorest peasants who in the past were squeezed dry by the merchants and landlords operating through the banks of the Kuomintang. A farmer at Fou Yang said: "Not only the Farmers' Association, but even the bank, is helping us to come into our own."

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Chennault's Claim Rejected

THE Hongkong Supreme Court has rejected an injunction application by Chennault's Civil Air Transport for some 70 aircraft of the China National Aviation Corporation and the Central Air Transport Corporation.

General Claire Chennault's application followed a claim that his corporation had legally bought the planes from the Chinese Nationalist regime, although the timing of his claim gave rise to many doubts as to the real nature of the alleged deal with the Nationalists.

The decision of the Hongkong Supreme Court was the subject of an immediate protest by the United States Consul-General in Hongkong, Karl Rankin, to Governor Sir Alexander Grantham.

A British Foreign Office spokesman was quoted as saying, in London on February 26, that the British Government could not interfere with a purely judicial decision that aircraft formerly belonging to the Nationalists must be transferred to the Central People's Government of China.

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"President" Li Tsung-jen

HONGKONG reports say that on Taiwan the Kuomintang Control Yuan has formally introduced a resolution to impeach Acting President Li Tsung-jen for neglecting his duties.

General Li left Hongkong on December 5 last year to travel to the United States and there undergo treatment for a "stomach ailment." He said, at the time, that he would return to China as soon as possible.

Li has supposedly had his "operation" for his ailment, but has refused to return to Taiwan.

US May Quiz China Students

WASHINGTON — Because of the defeat of the Kuomintang regime in China, the US Immigration Service is seriously considering issuing warrants for arrest of 3,500 Chinese students now in the US and grilling them on their affiliations.

This was revealed in the testimony of Commissioner Watson B. Miller before a House appropriations subcommittee made public recently. Miller was forced to admit that the students were behaving themselves and attending classes in conformity with regulations.

Miller said the big problem was where to send the Chinese. He said recognition of the new Chinese government by Britain makes no difference in his policy but that Canada's attitude always has an effect on immigration problems in the US.

—Vancouver, B. C.,
Pacific Tribune,
February 10, 1950.

A Rumanian view of Anglo-American "friendship", reprinted in the *Giefang Rbbao*.

American press reports say that a group of influential businessmen are making quite a fuss over Li in Washington where he, his private secretary, interpreter and butler are regarded as the possible basis for the formation of a "third force" in China.

When Madame Chiang was in Washington she did not see the Acting President. But it is reported that she sent him an invitation to dinner on the evening he was to have his "operation."

* * *

Ban on American Arms

A RESOLUTION was adopted at a meeting of Hamburg port workers declaring solidarity with French and Italian dockers who have refused to unload ships carrying American war materials, the Berlin ADN news agency reported on February 21.

The resolution said that Hamburg port workers will handle no war materials, and that peace may be assured only by persistent struggle.

Hamburg port workers found labels glued to cases of Dutch goods with appeals written in Dutch, English, French and Italian: "Do not unload any war materials!" the newspaper Neues Deutschland reports.

* * *

Too Much to Sell

REPUBLICAN Senators from industrial states expressed in Washington, on February 25, growing concern over the ECA's plan to encourage the sale of European-made goods on the American market.

The ECA, driving to close Europe's dollar gap, is trying to find an outlet of US$1,000,000,000 a year in the United States for a wide variety of foreign-made goods.

Senator Taft of Ohio, Chairman of the Republican Policy Committee, told a reporter that this program "could be a pretty dangerous thing and throw a lot of people out of work."

Republican Senator Eugene D. Millikin of Colorado said the industries in his state were already being hit by foreign imports of zinc, copper, lead and petroleum.

Other Republican leaders commented that numerous industrial and agricultural producers would be hard hit by European competition.

In some lines, the United States already has a considerable surplus production.

The US Department of Agriculture is to attempt to sell overseas at the "give-away" price of one cent per 100-lb bag its 40,000,000 bushel surplus potato crop.

The surplus may be "dumped" abroad free, the Secretary of Agriculture, Mr. Charles Brannan, has told Congress.

The surplus problem has been intensified by the sale on the American market of Canadian potatoes at 20 cents a bag under the domestic product.

* * *

Meanwhile the surplus of wheat in the United States to be carried over into the next season may exceed 450,000,000 bushels, London reports say. This US glut is likely to be enlarged next year.

Europe's crop prospects are very promising and bread consumption is declining: British bakers report a 10 percent decline which is remarkable for such a staple food. Australia may also have a substantial carry-over after her big wheat crops in the last two years, but Canada's is likely to be moderate and Argentina's small.

Already the United States is offering wheat at much nearer the minimum than the maximum International Wheat Agreement price in dollars, while Australia got India to pay the maximum in sterling although Britain still refused to do so.

* * *

Riots in Asmara

CITIZENS of Asmara, capital of the former Italian colony of Eritrea, are confined to their homes except for two hours each day under a tight curfew imposed by British military authorities.

Reports from the city on February 23 said that British troops with tanks had gone into action to break into buildings where rioters were hiding, on the third consecutive day of Christian-Moslem clashes, in which 41 people have been killed to date.

At times during the day the situation in Asmara seemed completely out of hand, reports say. Police opened fire on crowds and by night-fall appeared to have things under control.

With the aid of troops, police cordoned off parts of the non-European quarter where looting had been reported.

The wounded were estimated at about 130. No British troops or police, no Europeans and no members of communities other than the Coptic Christians and Moslems suffered any casualties.

* * *

European Spy Trials

CETEKA, the official Czechoslovak news agency, reported on February 22 that four persons were sentenced to death for economic espionage at a trial by the state court held in a ministry at Prague.

The death sentences were commuted to life imprisonment and 22 and 25 year terms because of extenuating circumstances and former good record of all four accused, *Ceteka* said.

All four were found guilty of passing important economic data and documents to a member of the French intelligence service and a British consular official.

Cetèka said that two of the accused, a married couple named Blazek, were both used to an easy life under the capitalist regime and disliked the new order brought about by the nationalization of trade and industry.

In Berne, Switzerland, Will Gerber, 47-year-old Swiss army mechanic, was sentenced to 20 years' imprisonment on February 25 for spying for Britain, France and the United States since 1933.

In a three-day trial by a military tribunal, mostly held in public, Gerber pleaded guilty.

The president of the court said Gerber had transmitted about 1,650 plans and documents, some of them "outstandingly interesting" to foreign governments, especially to the United States, between 1942 and 1945.

Gerber, who was arrested last July, admitted that he had sent his last report that month to the British legation in Berne. He had worked for the British and French before the war, he said.

Defending counsel commented: "His espionage activities put him in contact with the outside world. They became a mania he could not do without, filling the gap caused by an inferiority complex and the limited horizons of his everyday life."

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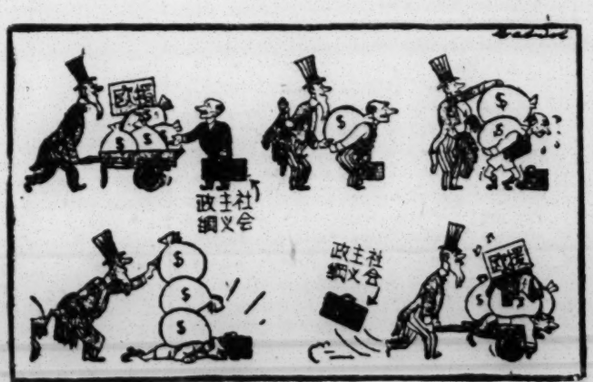
Strikes in France

THOUSANDS of Republican security guards on February 25 clear-



This cartoon, reprinted in the *Giefang Rbbao* from the Czechoslovakian publication *Light of Prague*, shows the course of American aid to Britain. The briefcase, tossed aside in the melee, contains Britain's program of socialization.

ed strike pickets out of the Ford works at Poissy, west of Paris, where 5,000 workers have been on strike for a week, and occupied the premises.

At least 115,000 Paris metal workers were on strike for more pay early the same day.

Communist-led metal workers' unions in the Rhone Department decided on a strike of unlimited duration to start on February 27, after an interview in Lyons with employers' representatives, who declined to discuss a demand for a 3,000 francs (about US$8.50) monthly bonus.

A joint meeting of CGT, Catholic and Force Ouvriers metal workers' union leaders in Lyons decided to take a strike vote on February 25.

In Paris, a bus and underground railway workers strike is threatened on February 28 to secure higher maximum wages and an immediate provisional monthly bonus of 3,000 francs.

* * *

Labor Wins in Britain

WITH one result still to come, the Labor Party has secured an absolute parliamentary majority of 7 in the British general election held on February 23.

The present state of the various parties is:

Labor	315	(390)
Conservative and Liberal Conservative	296	(218)
Liberals	9	(10)
Irish Nationalists	2	(2)
Independent Liberals	1	(1)
Communist	0	(2)
Others	0	(16)

(In brackets—in the previous parliament)

It was reported that the votes polled by the various parties up to the present were:

Labor	13,248,957
Conservative	12,450,403
Liberal	2,634,482
Communist	91,746

Prime Minister Clement Atlee said on February 25 that he would form another Labor Government. Before announcing this decision, Labor Party leaders considered the course they would pursue at an emergency session of the Cabinet.

Labor, it is said, would not seek any kind of coalition or aid from Conservatives or Liberals. Changes in Labor's Cabinet will be announced later this week.

The **Manchester Guardian** (Liberal) said that the most sensible course is for the Atlee government to continue, to put through an agreed budget, and after a decent interval hold another election.

The **Yorkshire Post** (Conservative) said: "It will be for Sir Stafford Cripps and not a Conservative Chancellor to bring in an exacting budget which Socialist extravagance has made inevitable. And the Government will have a take the consequences of devaluation, now likely to show themselves in further price increases."

The **Times** — Consultation among party leaders to agreed on indispensible steps in public finance, defense and foreign relations is needed and new elections after a "breathing space" with Labor maintaining the Government in the meantime.

The **Daily Herald** (Labor)—"Labor retains power. The extreme narrowness of the majority is a disappointment to us. But infinitely greater is the disappointment of the Tories."

Press reactions from other parts of the world were:

The **New York Times** said people who had feared that the Labor Government was undermining British democracy "need fear no longer." The party has now the smallest majority of the 20th century of any party taking office "a statistical way of saying that Britain has now a weak, unstable government."

The **Trouw**, Calvinist organ in the Netherlands — "The fact that the Communists have been beaten is a healthy sign," and it suggests that a coalition government would be "sensible" not only in the face of

Chinese Press Opinion:

Production and Famine Relief Come First

IN an editorial in the *Giefang Rhbao* of February 25 on the subject "Production and Famine-Relief Work Should Be Primary Consideration Today," it is pointed out that in the directive issued by the East China Military-Political Commission on production and famine-relief work, all party political, military and civilian personnel in East China should be speedily mobilized in accordance with the directive and should rely on and lead the people in an all-out effort to conquer natural calamities.

"At present, there are some 10,000,000 famine victims in the various districts of the East China zone, while more than 1,000 victims have already died either from starvation or from sickness... The seriousness of the famine situation in the various districts is growing. . .

"It will be only after we have aided these 10,000,000 odd famine victims that all work will proceed smoothly. In the meantime, the spring ploughing season will come soon, and due to the periodical outbreak of natural calamities and devastation by the Chiang Kai-shek regime during the past few years, farmers are experiencing an acute shortage of seeds, manure, oxen, farm implements and labor. Unless we can actively lead the people in stricken districts in spring ploughing work, helping them over various kinds of difficulties in the spring plowing period, these people will continue to suffer from famine, while the people of non-stricken areas will not only not be able to help famine victims but may themselves become victims. Therefore, the directive of the East China Military-Political Commission is absolutely necessary," the *Giefang Rhbao* stated.

"With the object of surmounting the famine, the various districts in the East China zone must seize the present opportunity to mobilize the masses in undertaking production and famine-relief work, and should regard this as their central work.

"For the stricken areas, production and famine relief work should be undertaken side by side, while in non-stricken areas production should be boosted to provide against any possible famine outbreak. All work should center around this target," the paper stressed.

"In undertaking work in the various stricken areas in East China at present, the grain allocated by the various provinces in China should be turned to good account. Victims benefiting by the relief grain should be mobilized for river conservancy and other urgent tasks, and this will pave the way for the masses to seek salvation through production.

"In non-stricken areas, on the other hand," concluded the paper, "preparations for spring ploughing should form the nucleus of work. The various leading organs in the various districts should work out plans regarding such problems concerning spring ploughing as oxen, seeds, fertilizers, agricultural implements, mutual aid between labor, reclamation of waste lands and formulation of production programs according to actual conditions prevailing in various districts. Campaigns should likewise be launched encouraging production outside the regular channels of public organizations, army and schools."

* * *

Commenting on "British Labor's Tragic Victory," the *Ta Kung Pao* of March 1 pointed out that both the Labor and the Conservative Parties "are in perfect agreement on important problems," and that "the British Labor Party has wasted four and a half years. One thing, however, it has done is to divide the British labor class. The policy of the Conservative Party was brought into the labor movement in Britain through the Labor Party. The Labor Government has all along been serving the interests of British and American capitalists. . . ."

an actual war but also in the preparations for war.

The **Giefang Rhbao**, carrying **Tass** dispatches, headlined the "Hypocritical democratic election in Britain." It suggested that there were irregularities in the election, and pointed out that the activities of Communist candidates were restricted.

American Coal Strike

THIS is the third week of the nation-wide strike of 370,000 soft coal miners in the United States.

The miners have ignored a court order and the appeals of union leaders, including John L. Lewis, to return to work.

The federal court has therefore brought a case against the miners' union.

In Washington, on February 27 the miners' union pleaded not guilty to charges of contempt of court by defying its "no strike" order and failing to get the miners back to the pits. The union's attorneys have

Directive for Dealing with Agricultural Land in the Suburbs of Cities of Old Liberated Areas

(Passed by the Government Administration Council, Jan., 1950)

THE agrarian reform eliminating the feudal and semifeudal system of exploitation has been entirely completed in Northeast China. It has also been completed in the old liberated areas of six provinces, Hopei, Shansi, Chahar, Suiyuan, Pingyuan and Shanhtung.... In the light of certain experience of Peking and Tientsin, the measures for agrarian reform in the suburbs of the cities should be as follows:

1) All lands of the landlords shall be confiscated and all lands rented out by the old type rich peasants shall be requisitioned. In the interest of municipal construction and indudstrial development, these lands shall be placed under state ownership and be administered by the people's municipal governments. They shall be distributed for the use of peasants with little or no land. Landlords who desire to make any living out of farming after the agrarian reform should also receive the same share of land as that distributed to the peasants. Less or no land, depending on the circumstances, will be distributed to landlords who have other means of income to support themselves.

2) Draught animals and the surplus grain of the landlords shall be confiscated for distribution to the peasants in order to solve difficulties arising from lack of capital for production. The surplus houses and buildings of the landlords in rural areas may be requisitioned for redistribution to the peasants in order to solve the housing shortage of poor peasants. Big buildings, villas in scenic spots and the like, are exceptions and will be set aside for public use according to the needs of municipal construction. All land and buildings connected with industry and trade shall be left untouched; all other properties of the landlords shall be left untouched. It is forbidden without exception to search for any hidden wealth of the landlords. The landlords are allowed to invest their hidden wealth in industry and trade.

3) Industry and trade operated concurrently by landlords and old type rich peasants including draught animal transport are not to be confiscated or distributed. Industry and trade operated concurrently by landlords and old type rich peasants must be strictly differentiated from their feudal land and property and should not be infringed upon when their feudal land and property is confiscated or requisitioned.

4) Right of ownership and use of the land of all independent farmers including land which is cultivated with hired labor by old type rich peasants are to remain unchanged. All those who rent out small pieces of land owing to lack of labor power or by reason of their having been engaged in other occupations are not to be regarded as landlords or old type rich peasants. Their land is not to be classed among that to be confiscated and they are allowed to continue to rent out their land. Rentals are to be fixed by agreement between the landowner and the tenant.

5) All farms, vegetable gardens, orchards and experimental farms using machinery in advanced installations should continue to be operated by those persons who have been operating them regardless of changes in the ownership of the land itself.

6) All land for financing schools, land belonging to clans and land devoted to ancestral shrines, temples, churches and public organizations should come under state ownership and should be properly distributed. Appropriate measures should, however, be adopted in the case of schools, orphanages and hospitals relying on the income from such land. Monks and nuns desirous of engaging in agricultural production should be given a portion of land. In the case of Mohammedan mosques, lama temples and churches, dealing with their land should be separated from the question of religious beliefs and this should be thoroughly explained to the various religious followers.

7) Gravevards and trees on the gravevards should be protected and left untouched in the course of confiscating or requisitioning the land of the landlords or old type rich peasants.

8) Confiscated or requisitioned land, together with public land belonging to the People's Government, should come under unified distribution with the administrative village as a unit and be distributed first of all to landless peasants or those with only a little land in the village. A certain amount of land may, in accordance with the circumstances, also be distributed to the unemployed poor workers or poor people who wish to engage in farming.

9) All those who till state-owned land in the suburbs need not pay rent but only agricultural taxes according to regulations as laid down by the authorities.

10) Concrete records and evidence should be collected where heinous crimes have been committed by despotic elements who are bitterly hated by the masses and whose trial and punishment are demanded by the people. Charges should be filed against them with the people's court which shall pass sentence on them according to law. Indiscriminate maltreatment and penalization are forbidden.

11) Peasant representatives' meetings or peasants' meetings or such committees elected by them under the leadership of the municipal and district people's government shall be the executive organs for carrying out agrarian reform. As to determining whether a person falls into the category of landlord or rich peasant, this should be judged by the village peasants' meeting which will invite the persons concerned to attend the meeting. Such judgment is subject to ratification by the *chu* (district) people's government.

12) All arable wasteland should come under unified distribution of the people's government which will distribute it among peasants with little or no land for use on the condition that such cultivation does not obstruct city development or damage famous historical scenic places. All tillers of wasteland will be exempted from paying agricultural taxes for from one to three years.

13) These provisions are only applicable to agricultural land in the suburbs of cities. Agricultural land in the outskirts of county seats and land surrounding towns will be dealt with according to the existing provisions relating to agrarian reform in newly liberated areas.

—New China News Agency Translation

contended that the miners were acting individually—that the union itself had nothing to with the present strike.

The union waived its right to argue its case before a jury and decided to let Federal Judge Richmond B. Keech rule on the evidence as well as the law.

Judge Keech issued the order on February 11 for the miners to return to work.

World Economic Report

THE United Nations Economic and Social Council, in Geneva on February 17, issued its 1949 world economic report in which total world production figures are given as well as the figures of economic conditions in various areas.

The report forecast a growing dollar shortage in the Marshall Plan countries in 1950, continuing economic difficulties for western Europe and parts of the British Commonwealth, and increasing unemployment with a lower demand for goods in the United States.

The only area where production is on the increase and the economic situation appears healthy is the area of the Soviet Union and the new democracies of eastern Europe.

The report described 1949 as a year of major economic changes, which marked the virtual completion of post-war reconstruction.

With the "expansionist phase" coming to an end, progress achieved in 1948 towards a world balance of payments was lost through a fall in American imports, it said.

Western Europe had been unable to prevent an increase in its "chronic" adverse trade balance with the United States, which had been aggravated by the United States decline in imports.

The report said the effectiveness of the 1949 currency devaluations would depend on how far countries could increase their exports relative to their imports.

Dealing with India, the report stated that India increased her import surplus in 1949 but that there was "no significant change in existing inflationary pressure."

It went on to say that part of the increased imports "consisted of non-essential consumer goods following a relaxation of import controls."

Investment goods also accounted for a large proportion of the increased imports.

Industrial production in India in 1949 did not increase significantly over the 1948 figure. Output of investment goods increased "to some extent" and both coal and steel production were somewhat higher than in 1948. On the other hand, textile production declined, though slightly.

Principal Indian crops were smaller and, not withstanding increased imports of food per head, consumption declined.

Cost of living and wholesale price levels receded from the higher levels reached in 1948.

Other areas were dealt with as follows:

United States—A decrease in effective demand for goods and increased unemployment.

Britain, Australia, Canada, Denmark, France, Holland, Norway and Sweden—A "substantial decrease in inflationary pressure," with reduced unemployment in Britain, Australia and Norway, and increased real wages in Canada and France. The cost of living rose in Australia and Holland.

Belgium and Western Germany —A "considerable rise in unemployment."

Italy—"Serious unemployment."

Middle East—A reduction in "inflationary pressure."

Latin America — A notable reduction in foreign trade.

Eastern Europe and Soviet Union —"A substantial increase in industrial production and in the supply of food and other consumer goods." And real income rose in the Soviet Union by 14 percent for farmers and 12 percent for other workers.

The Week's Business

Volume of overseas remittances reported on increase; People's Bank now issuing money orders; foreign exchange rates again revised.

FRACTIONAL gains were registered in practically all commodity prices with the exception of foodstuffs. The rise was more marked in the case of cotton yarn and cloth which, since the market resumed trading after the spring festival holidays, have been in persistent demand from outports, including Changsha, Kiangsi, Fukien and Canton. During the week under review from February 23 to March 1, the price of cotton yarn moved up by more than 10 percent. The parity deposit unit rate for the same period increased, however, by only 5.4 percent, mainly because of the steady rice price, which stood throughout the week at JMP285,000 per picul under abundant demand.

Travelling merchants were reported active between Shanghai and Kwangtung, Kiangsi, and Hunan and brought back with them pharmaceuticals, wrist watches, fountain pens and other small articles. A number of local plants are reported carrying on their production with their own power generating equipment to meet the demand from South China.

In the financial market the money situation turned stringent on Tuesday, February 28. Considerable sums were understood to have been turned in to the People's Bank before the end of February for the Victory Bonds subscribed by various circles.

To cope with the prevailing market situation and comply with the demand of various government and private enterprises, as well as to reduce the inconvenience arising from transporting and counting bank notes, the Shanghai Branch of the People's Bank started to issue money orders from February 25. These cash orders, with a minimum denomination of JMP1,000,000 each, have a validity of one month.

According to reports from South China, the volume of overseas remittances sent to this country through the various banks of Hongkong greatly increased around the spring festival. During the several days immediately before the lunar New Year, many people were remitting money from Hongkong Branch of the Bank of China.

These reports added that following the institution of the ban on the circulation of Hongkong dollars in Canton, overseas remittances to the South China city have averaged 100 in number daily. According to statistics compiled by the Overseas Chinese Service Department of the Canton Branch of the Bank of China, overseas remittances during the first 27 days of January numbered, 928, and in the first 20 days of February, 1,382. It is said that the main reason accounting for the increase in the volume of remittances is the policy of the People's Government in safeguarding the interests of overseas Chinese, who are accorded special preferential exchange rates and facilities for deposits. Canton is now connected directly with Hongkong, Singapore, London, Kuala Lumpur, Penang, Calcutta, Rangoon, Bombay and Karachi for overseas remittances. Most of those overseas remittances are said being used for investment in industries and trade.

Foreign exchange rates were revised twice in the local market during the week under review, first on February 23 and next on the 25th. The TT rate for the US dollar was increased first by JMP2,000 to JMP29,000 and later to JMP32,000. To increase the foreign exchange receipts of the Government, the Trade Ministry of the Central People's Government recently announced measures placing the export and/or collection of such export items as hog bristles, soyabeans, tungsten, antimony and tin ores under state monopoly.

Quotations

Following is a listing of representative commodity prices for the past week:

	Feb. 22 JMP	Mar. 1 JMP
Parity Unit	6,192	6,546
US dollar (note)	24,300	28,800
20's yarn	6,150,000	6,800,000
12-lb. cloth	295,000	314,000
Rice, 1st grade	285,000	285,000
Peanut oil	570,000	620,000
Coal briquette	28,600	32,500

Articles of Interest:

Nationalism or New-Patriotism?

IT is natural, says Professor Fei Hsiao-tung, writing in a recent issue of the *Ta Kung Pao* (Jan. 29), that "rising nationalistic feeling" should accompany the rapid development of the revolutionary situation in China—the growing unity inside China, and the throwing off of the foreign yoke. But the true patriot, he warns, is not a nationalist. Nationalism belongs to the old capitalist societies. China's New Democracy calls not for "nationalism" but for "new-patriotism."

In the course of his article, he proceeds to distinguish between 1) Capitalist "nationalism", which he says is used to lull the workers into a sense of false unity with the exploiting class, to paralyze the domestic class struggle and thus impede social development; 2) "Cosmopolitanism", which he describes as the false friendship proffered by capitalist countries in the imperialist stage to nations they intend to exploit and subjugate; and 3) "Internationalism," which he regards as true comradeship between peaceful, constructive socialist countries and their peoples.

Professor Fei briefly summarizes the history of the rise of capitalism and nationalism, with the later introduction of "cosmopolitanism" to pave the way for imperialist expansion.

"It was only with the rise to power of the capitalist class after the Industrial Revolution of Western Europe," he writes, "that the 'national state' came into being." The emergence of the new capitalist class which, in order to clear the way for its own development, opposed feudalism and the power of the Church, meant social advancement at that time. "But the nationalist state is still a form of capitalist dictatorship," he points out, "dedicated to the protection of the vested interests of the capitalist class." As these interests are "based on class exploitation, the national state naturally becomes an agency for oppressing the exploited classes."

"In the capitalistic society," he continues, "the capitalist class began by exploiting its own proletariat class. Then, in order to keep this special privilege to itself, the capitalist class had to keep foreign capitalist classes from encroaching upon domestic markets. Thus was national sovereignty brought into being. But as capitalism gradually developed into imperialism, on the one hand it had to make use of national sovereignty as a means to keep out foreign competition, while on the other hand, when carrying out various acts of aggression, it had to disregard the principles of national sovereignty in proceeding to deprive the weaker peoples of their sovereign rights. Then, when confronted with competition by other imperialists, it again resorted to calling upon the principles of nationalism. This is because in waging wars between the imperialists themselves, the capitalist classes have to depend upon their respective proletariat classes to furnish the necessary money, manpower and even lives. In this stage, nationalism has the effect of 'doping' the proletariat class. A typical example is the theory of racial superiority as expounded by Nazi Germany."

* * *

THE writer declares that while, up to a point, nationalism is a useful tool of the capitalist class, at the later stage of imperialism it becomes a double-edged tool. "Colonial and semi-colonial peoples not only succeeded in acquiring modern knowledge, but they began to realize their own exploited position," he writes. "They began to embark upon an anti-imperialist movement, and nationalism became one of their weapons. Finding that the doctrine of nationalism has boomeranged, and at a time when one of the imperialists has created a situation of world hegemony following the successful defeat of other imperialist powers, the imperialists then present us with cosmopolitanism. In fact, cosmopolitanism serves the same purpose of paralyzing the class struggle and doping the proletariat class in the latter stages of imperialism as was the case with nationalism in the early stage of capitalistic development."

Professor Fei continues: "Inasmuch as the nationalistic sentiments exhibited in the colonial independence movements of the latter stage of imperialism are possessed of anti-imperialist qualities, it is quite easy for us to overlook the reactionary nature of nationalism. It is thus easy for people freshly liberated from the oppressions of feudalism and imperialism to be mistaken about the true quality of nationalism. Especially elements formerly belonging to the petit bourgeois class are liable to be misled."

But in the age of New Democracy, Professor Fei concludes, nationalism must be replaced by internationalism. "Internationalism," he explains, "is the grand union of all the peoples engaged in the fight against capitalism and imperialism. In the friendly coalition formed of the socialistic and new democratic nations," based on the common brotherhood of the world proletariat, who have no necessity to "stand on guard against each other," the contradictions and conflicts between national patriotisms do not exist.

LETTERS

(Continued from page 1)

a fixed amount of compensation was payable. This amount was sent by the traffic office (of the Quarter) to the Chinese authorities, who then forwarded it to the police for payment to the injured party. But in actual practice the money was often intercepted by the police (in the Quarter) and deposited in a foreign bank, with the victim of the tragedy entirely ignored.

"The barracks in the Legation Quarter were normally buildings for the accommodation of foreign troops. But in addition to being so used, the buildings were also exclusively employed for auxiliary use, namely for the shelter of warlords and politicians suffering defeat in the successive civil wars. Thus when warlord A defeated warlord B, the various barracks in the Legation Quarter were thrown open to the important political and other hirelings of the defeated warlord B, nominally affording protection to political offenders, but actually helping out warlord B in his predicament so that he might later stage a comeback and start a new civil war. Thus would the imperialists be enabled to control the bogus governments whose members had enjoyed their protection and who would be ready to sign traitorous treaties and take over surplus supplies of arms and munitions. Thus were all the major civil wars of the days of the warlords, such as the Chihli-Fengtien War and the Chin-i-Anhwei War, manufactured by the imperialists, the tragedies being the direct result of the collusion between the imperialists and the feudal influences.

"The area to the west of Tai Chi Chuang was originally a piece of vacant ground known as 'Tsai Ho Lan.' After the construction of the legation building and barracks, a small lane, the Tsai Ho Lan Hsiao Hutung, was created. The lane borders on the west the former Japanese barracks, on the south the former French barracks, and on the north the former Italian barracks. The police therefore looked upon the lane as 'no man's land' under the jurisdiction of nobody. And the lane was extensively used by the troops of the said three nations for the perpetration of their beastly crimes, after which they just entered their respective barracks by the back door, and refused to admit anything should trouble later arise. . . .

"In 1924, an American soldier, who had finished a night's drinking, passed the southern entrance to the Tai Chi Chuang. At the same time a Chinese named Hung reached the place on his bicycle, bringing with him some chickens and eggs to see his daughter on New Street. The American stopped his vehicle, pulled Hung down, and kicked and beat him on the spot. His right eye was kicked out, and he was subsequently admitted to the German Hospital where he succumbed to his injuries in three hours. The American criminal was brought to his legation, and the only explanation he offered was that he 'could not bear the sight of that Chinese.' In the end, he was just sent back to the United States. One Chinese police constable was so justly indignant over the affair that he resigned.

"Shortly after that incident, a French soldier attempted to rape a Korean girl below the city walls, and in the scuffle seriously hurt the girl. Another Korean girl proceeded to the French Legation to lodge a protest, but was informed that no French soldier had taken leave from the barracks that day. Nothing further could be done.

"The imperialists had been oppressing China for more than 100 years. In the Legation Quarter in Peking, incidents such as those described were repeated occurrences. It is only now, when the country has been liberated and the imperialist influences in China overthrown that the people have succeeded in taking back these barracks where such crimes were created."

SZE LI-PO

Peking
February 9, 1950

The Review's English Lesson CXX

Singular and Plural Nouns

THIS week's English lesson deals with some common mistakes in the use of various nouns and definitions of some new words now in current use.

The two words **baggage; luggage** (行李), having the same meaning, are often incorrectly used in the plural form as "baggages"; "luggages." Both of these words take the singular for both the singular and plural forms. Thus we may say: "His baggage consisted of five pieces," or, "One handbag was all the baggage he had," or, "Open all your luggage for customs examination."

One frequently reads: "The People's Liberation Army captured much war booties." This should read—"captured much war booty," (戰利品), since the word **booty** now is used to denote both the singular and plural. The commonly accepted definition of the word **booties** is: "footwear for small children or infants."

The noun **ammunition** likewise is often incorrectly called "ammunitions" when referring to the plural or a quantity of ammunition. The word used to denote the number of pieces, whether one or more, is called **round.** Thus we may say one round, or, 30 rounds, of ammunition; but must never say "so many rounds of ammunitions." The word **round** is used in much the same way in relation to ammunition as the character (個) is used in relation to the character (人).

The noun **artillery** (大礮) likewise takes the singular form when referring to more than one object of the same kind. Thus we say, one piece of artillery; 200 pieces of artillery, or, 200 artillery pieces. It is incorrect to say, 200 artilleries. In military terminology a fixed number of artillery pieces is called a **battery.**

The military terms **infantry; cavalry** fall into the same category. We do not say "so many infantries" or "so many cavalries," but must employ a classifying term in each case, such as; one infantry**man;** five infantry**men,** so many squads, companies, brigades or divisions of infantry. A single unit of cavalry is called one cavalryman; the largest is called a division of cavalry.

The word **information** (消息) is similarly used for both singular and plural. Thus one may say: "The information I have concerns the weather," or, "All available information on the world situation."

The noun **stationery** refers to writing materials such as paper, envelopes, inks, notebooks, etc., and should not be called "stationeries." The student should take care lest he confuse this noun with the adjective **stationary** (不動的) which means, "immovable, fixed in one position."

The noun **machinery** (機械) is often wrongly used as "machineries" in referring to more than one machine. We say, for example, "The factory moved all its machinery to Chengchow."

The noun **personnel** is sometimes referred to as "personnels," mistakenly. Thus we may say: "The **personnel** (人員) of the factory accompanied the machinery to the interior." The use of the letter "s" on the end of this word is wrong.

The word **applause** is likewise unchanged in both singular and plural form. For example: "His speech was followed by round after round of **applause** (稱讚). The use of the word "applauses" is incorrect.

Another frequently misused word is the noun **proletariat** (無產階級). This is a collective noun which denotes by the singular form a number of objects of the same kind, that is, singular in form but plural in meaning. Other such words are: **class** (等); flock (羣); **multitude** (羣衆). The term **proletariat** refers to a class, or grade, of the population and is never used in referring to an individual as "a proletariat." We may say; "He is a proletarian" (noun), or, "He is of proletarian (adjective) origin," or, "He comes from the proletariat" (noun). Thus one may say: "Proletarian of the world unite," or, "Proletariat of the world unite," but we cannot say; "Proletariats of the world unite."

The words **means** (方法) and **news** (新聞) are plural in form but may be both singular and plural in meaning. For example: "He has the means to do it," or, "All other means have failed." We may likewise say: "This item of news," or, "The news from all over the world is good." In the above it may be seen how these words may be used to denote both singular and plural form.

Compound nouns are frequently used incorrectly as in the case of such terms as **peanut butter.** In this term the word **butter** is the essential part, the word **peanut** merely indicating the kind of butter. Thus we say "peanut butter" even though we understand that more than one peanut is used in the making. Do not say "peanuts butter."

The same rule holds true for the term **mouse trap.** We know that a trap may catch more than one mouse but, because the word **mouse** is used only to describe the kind of **trap** referred to, we do not call it a "mice trap" but a "mouse trap." Similarly, when we want to buy a paid of shoes we do not say we are going to a "shoes shop," but to a **shoe shop.** Other such terms include: armchair; foot-stool; ox-cart; book-shop.

* * *

THE following comparatively new terms, with their definitions, should be of aid to the student in adding to his vocabulary:—

Air condition. To equip with a mechanical system which maintains the proper temperature (溫度) and humidity (潮氣) for human comfort.

Bottle-neck. A person or situation that impedes activity, especially one that slows down production or progress.

Black-out. The extinguishing of all lights that may be visible from the air in order to protect a city from aerial bombardment.

Contact lens. A kind of invisible eyeglass fitting directly over the eyeball.

Escapism. The act of running away from the realities of life.

Helicopter. A type of aircraft driven by horizontally rotating propellers which is capable of rising and descending without using the conventional runway or landing strip.

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